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THE SPECTATOR

PHOTO COURTESY OF SARA MILLER '10

A Hamilton volunteer enjoys some face painting with local youth on Make a Difference Day. Last Saturday, the HAVOC event set a new record for participation.

HAVOC's Record Turnout Helps to Make a Difference

by Arianne Bergman '13
News Writer

Last Saturday, Hamilton students spent almost 500 hours serving their community. The Hamilton Association for Volunteering, Outreach and Charity (HAVOC) hosted their annual event, Make a Difference Day, which drew approximately 130 volunteers, more than any year before.

Students went to 16 different locations, undertaking tasks ranging from trimming the shrubs in an elderly couple's yard to working in a soup kitchen. HAVOC regularly works at many of these sites throughout the year.

"We hope that volunteers who went there will have had a great experience and will want to return again," said HAVOC president Laurel Emurian '11.

Among the sites that Hamilton students aided last weekend and regularly visit is the Loretto Center in Utica, an elderly community complex housing more than 250 people. HAVOC has a longstanding relationship with the center and has been sending students there for years to spend time with the residents.

Students also helped out at the Abraham House. The facility

*see **HAVOC**, page 2*

Students, Faculty Fast for Charity During Ramadan

by Emily Delbridge '13
News Writer

On Wednesday, over 150 Hamilton students and faculty members joined the Muslim Students Association (MSA) in the third annual Fast-o-thon. Participants spent the day fasting to support the Mohawk Valley Refugee Center in Utica. They were then served a free dinner, and about five dollars per person was donated to the Center, courtesy of Bon Appétit and Student Assembly.

The Center will be able to use the donations to help refugees with anything from simply stocking the refrigerator to finding a job or helping with medical expenses.

The Fast-o-thon took place on the twenty-third day of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, Laylat-al-Qadr (The Night of Decree), when all sins are forgiven and charitable acts are returned multi-fold. For Muslims, the holy month obligates fasting, or abstaining from eating, drinking, chewing gum, smoking and performing sexual acts from dawn to dusk each day for the duration of Ramadan.

As soon as the sun set, the eager fasters took part in the "iftar," or breaking of the fast and a customary opening prayer. Appetizers from The Phoenician restaurant and entrées from Minar were served, and a short reading from the Quran followed with an interpretation explaining the tradition of Ramadan.

The general practice of fasting is a common religious experience, being part of Islam and Judaism, among other religions. Therefore there must be something universal in the experience of fasting that draws religious attention. In Islam, the central motivation for fasting is in emulating the Prophet Mohammad and following the Quran. But in addition to the obvious religious reasons, veteran fasters explain a multitude of other spiritual aspects, including a sense of physical and mental purification.

Nedzada Smajic '10 of the MSA explained, "I fast because

*see **Over 150 Fast**, page 2*

Alumni Receive Recognition from President, Poker World

by Russ Doubleday '11
News Editor

Last week, President Barack Obama announced that he plans to nominate Neil McBride '67 to the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). The TVA serves nine million residents in seven states, making it the country's largest producer of electricity. The organization was created as a part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal in 1933, and currently also works in river management and economic development for the region.

In order to be confirmed, McBride must take part in confirmation hearings for the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, and then the United States Senate must approve his nomination.

"I am humbled by the challenge," said McBride. "If my nomination is approved, I look forward to finding ways to help TVA serve the Tennessee Valley and promote the Obama Administration's energy policy." He also said that the senate hearings will be the most difficult aspect of the whole process.

After graduating from Hamilton College in 1967, McBride enrolled at the University of Virginia School of Law and started his legal career under Ralph Nader in Washington D.C. Shortly thereafter, he moved to east Tennessee, where he helped establish a public interest law firm which has fought for stronger environmental standards in coal purchasing contracts and more effective energy efficiency programs. Over his long career, he has established several legal programs and firms and been a member of both the Tennessee Bar Association and American Bar Association, where he has held upper level positions on legal aid committees.

The White House called McBride "a national leader in the field of public interest law." McBride is also an professor at the University of Tennessee College of Law.

"If I am approved, I am especially pleased that I can keep my day job, not have to move to Washington and still be a small part of this Administration," McBride said.

Taking a different path to post-grad success, David Sands '07 became the number one ranked online poker player in the world according to Card Player Magazine's Online Player of the Year. Sands has earned $838,609 this year, bringing his total career earnings to almost $1.3 million. Over the past month, Sands has been consistently ranked in the top five of the standings, but he only achieved the top spot for the first time on Tuesday. Sands earned $40,336 in three casino events this year, where he finished no worse than 30th in each one.

Sands could not be reached for comment.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEIL MCBRIDE '67

Neil McBride '67 was nominated by President Obama to join the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors.

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Economic Insider Explains Why Housing Bubble Burst

by Ramya Ramnath '13
News Writer

According to Dean Baker, we should have seen the economic crisis coming. In a thought-provoking lecture on Wednesday night, Baker, co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, DC, presented his views on the reasons, effects and methods of preventing the economic crisis. It was the first lecture of the semester in a series sponsored by the Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center.

In his presentation, Baker addressed issues related to the housing bubble burst, such as its causes and how it affected the economy. He also offered suggestions on how to recover the economy and prevent a similar crisis in the future. Throughout the lecture, he stressed that the collapse could have been avoided. "The economists should have seen the bubble and acted against it," said Baker.

Baker pointed out that one of the most obvious warning signs was the parallel rise of the stock bubble and the housing bubble. The rapid growth of the housing bubble between 1996 and 2006, after being stable for almost 45 years, and that inconsistency between market changes and demographic changes during the same period were clear indicators that "something just [didn't] fit." According to Baker, the bubble was formed mainly due to people's expectations of housing prices to rise and their self-motivation to take loans and spend as a result.

Briefly elaborating on the effects of the economic crisis, Baker said that the housing bubble caused people to re-finance their mortgages, take additional loans and reduce savings. In addition, the bursting of the housing bubble caused adjusted savings rates to fall, housing prices to plummet by approximately 450 billion dollars and a loss of nearly 500 billion dollars in the annual consumption in the housing market.

Baker sought to dispel the common misconception of the significance of financial institutions in this crisis. He said, "Finance was secondary." However, he acknowledged that heavy leveraging of financial institutions, the explosion of sub-prime loans and the issuing of unregulated derivatives augmented the bursting of the housing bubble.

Baker focused on corrective strategies that could have been taken by the Federal Reserve System, such as utilizing their resources to document the bubble and warn people about it. He also recommended a "crack-down on mortgages and over-leverage" as a measure for tighter regulation. An increase in interest rates, he suggested, should only be used in a worst-case scenario, clarifying that "It's not a good policy" but that "it would have brought down the bubble."

Baker offered a number of possible methods to get out of this crisis. In the short-term, he suggested that the government spend money in order to create jobs, even if they are wasteful.

"The alternative to deficits is unemployment," he said.

The long-term option would be to "get the trade deficits closer to balance by getting the dollar down."

When asked how he was able to foresee the bubble when other economists could not, Baker said, "It was easier for me to see … because I believe in bubbles." Baker concluded by providing three steps to prevent a re-occurrence: punitive measures against the regulators, downsizing of the financial industry and strengthening the power of shareholders. While he provided methods of prevention for the crisis, he also implied that the future was bleak as "those responsible are waiting to do it again" and "we are setting up the conditions for another big failure in the future."

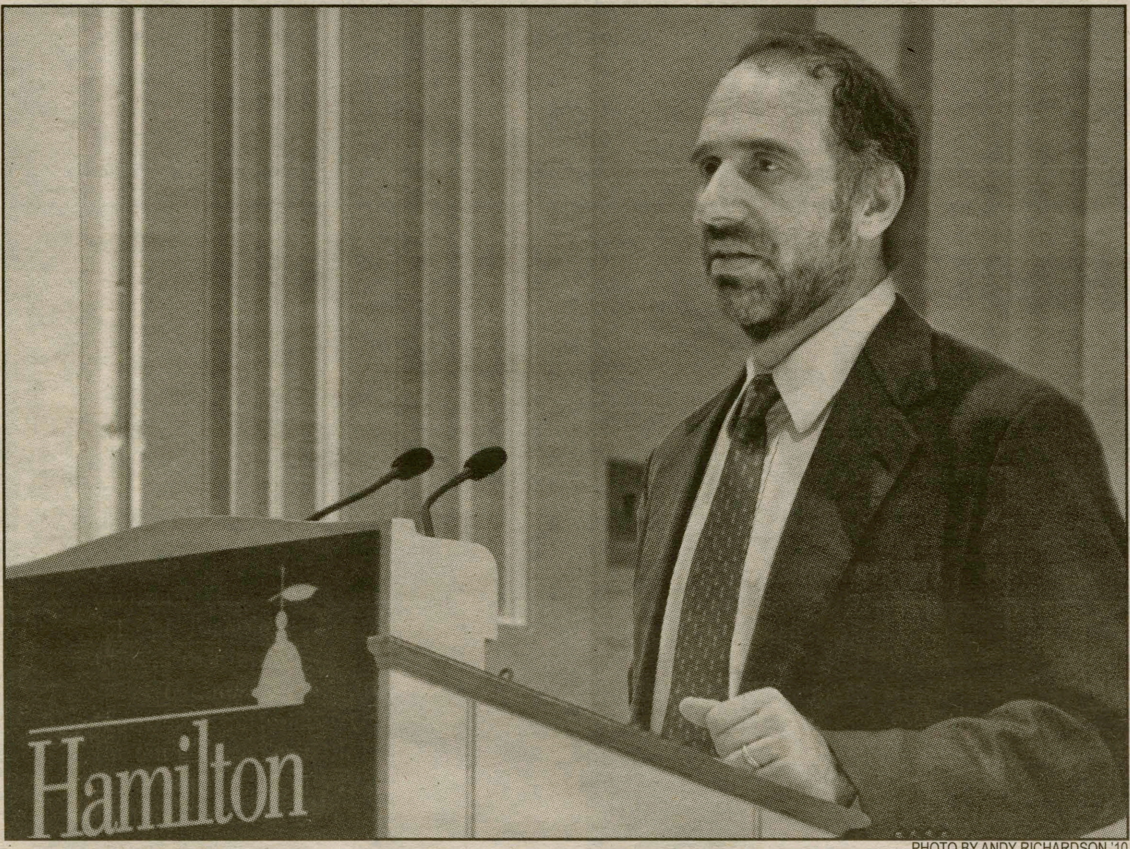

PHOTO BY ANDY RICHARDSON '10

Dean Baker is the Co-Director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, DC.

Over 150 Fast for Charity

*from **Students**, page 1*

it purifies the body and helps to avoid daily evils." MSA president Alia Rehman '10 elaborated on why people fast, saying "Fasting enhances your sense of self control and helps bring you closer to God. It also helps you gain a greater sense of camaraderie, both immediately with those whom you break the fast and those who live in hunger world-wide; you are more sensitive to suffering in others from having gone without yourself."

"In fasting, you learn something about yourself," said Visiting Professor of Religious Studies Aaron Spevack. "You learn the difference between what you want and what your body actually needs."

SA Update

Changes Coming to Burke Library

by Eve Denton '12
Student Assembly Correspondent

Library Director of Public Services Carolyn Carpan visited Student Assembly on Sept. 14 to discuss changes within Hamilton's library system. Updates have been made to the catalog and a new layout should make content searches much easier for students: A new policy will allow student to use Hill cards to check out videotapes and DVDs from the Media Library. Previously, all students were required to watch videos in the building. Items that professors have put on reserve for a class must still be watched in the room, but all other materials are available for students to check out for three days, with one renewal allowed. There is now an interlibrary loan status page designed to enable students to check book statuses online instead of visiting the library to learn this information.

Changes have also been made to the Burke Library building. In response to students' comments, many chairs have been refurbished to provide greater comfort while studying. Lighting has also been rearranged to brighten the first floor seating area. An assembly member asked whether new light fixtures could be added in third floor study areas, since they tend to be dark. Carpan expressed hope that perhaps desk lamps could be added to dark study carrels.

Carpan announced that rooms in the back of the second floor of Burke Library must be reserved through the events calendar and may not simply be used by walk-in study groups. She also reminded seniors that there is a reserve bookshelf area opposite the 24-hour reading room where books needed for thesis work can be stored. The amount of space available has been doubled in size, so students should have no problems finding a place to keep their books.

HAVOC Makes a Difference in Utica

*from **HAVOC**, page 1*

cares for the terminally ill and allows family members to visit their loved ones. Abraham House depends solely on grants, donations and fundraising efforts, so neither the patient nor the family needs to pay anything for the care.

Make a Difference Day is a national day of action presented by USA Weekend magazine, although Hamilton's is a month in advance of the official date. USA Weekend's version has a similarly wide range of projects, with each community deciding its their own, be it raising money for a local boy's medical bills or rebuilding hurricane-destroyed homes.

At Hamilton, Make a Difference Day is a way of easing the school back into service, as HAVOC activity increases throughout the year, including the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Day in collaboration with the Department of Diversity and Accessibility. The club also organizes frequent service trips in the community.

"HAVOC has 24 sites in Oneida County that we send volunteers to regularly [weekly, biweekly] during the semester," said Emurian. "We have Brown Bag Lunches about Oneida County community events and one or two fundraisers. We also bring children from the Neighborhood Center to campus to do crafts and play games with them."

Sam Cho '10 has volunteered at the Utica Rescue Mission as a site coordinator for two years, and has participated in Make a Difference Day for just as long. "I volunteer because I feel like it helps me stay grounded," said Cho. "Often we're isolated in this 'Hamilton bubble' and often oblivious to the hardships and struggles that exist right next door. Volunteering, for me, serves as a constant reminder of how privileged we are, and helps reinforce the importance of giving back to the community."

At the time of print, not all of the facts were known concerning a possible case of the H1N1 flu virus at Hamilton. Look to next week's issue for more in-depth coverage of the College's response to the threat.

THE SPECTATOR EDITORIAL

A New Focus: Hamilton Through A Wider Lens

The year has gotten off to a turbulent start, and it may feel like this past week was the first one of the semester that hasn't seen a major conflict. While the "Culture Wars" seem to have taken a break, this week was not devoid of social justice initiatives. HAVOC's annual "Make a Difference Day" was on Saturday, and on Friday, the College community remembered the events of September 11, 2001.

"Make a Difference Day" has always deserved recognition as a success, but it has not historically drawn a large number of Hamilton students. This may seem unrelated to recent issues on campus, but it is crucial that we ask ourselves whether we as a student body rank internal dialogue above community outreach. The two need not be mutually exclusive, but limiting our conversations to Hamilton limits the integrity of our own convictions. Constraining our perspectives to Hamilton-specific events and issues cuts us off from the benefits of a more global discussion and weakens any progress that might be accomplished from these dialogues.

All of us are privileged to be attending this school, no matter our social or economic background. This privilege entitles us to have intellectual debates about tolerance and its place in institutions of higher education. However, this privilege should also mean that we could recognize in one another the ability to communicate intelligently and productively. We should be able to work together toward common goals just as well as we debate one another. While all-campus e-mails announcing apologies and protests are crucial, there is something to be gained from calling each other not only to forums, but to action.

There is no better way to improve the sense of community and acceptance at Hamilton than to improve the world that surrounds us. These activities expand our horizons and make everyone more understanding of diverse circumstances. While we all have our differences of opinion, sense of humor and upbringing, we all share the experience of Hamilton. We have a strong common ground from which we can work together to make a difference. HAVOC's outreach programs and other service groups like "Study Buddies" offer the chance to make positive changes off the Hill. We should keep in mind that it's not only what we say, but also what we do, that matters.

Correction: In the article,"Students Rally for More Solidarity, Sensitivity," which ran in the September 10, 2009 issue of *The Spectator*, it was incorrectly implied that the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity sent out a party invitation exclusively to increase the attendance of female first-year students at their party. Alpha Delta Phi has clarified that if first-years did recieve the majority ofthe invites, the intent was merely to include a new class unfamiliar with campus events.
The Spectator regrets the error.

twitter

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The Spectator is now posting on the social media outlet Twitter. Be sure to look for previews of upcoming articles, as well as opportunities to write on topics that interest you.

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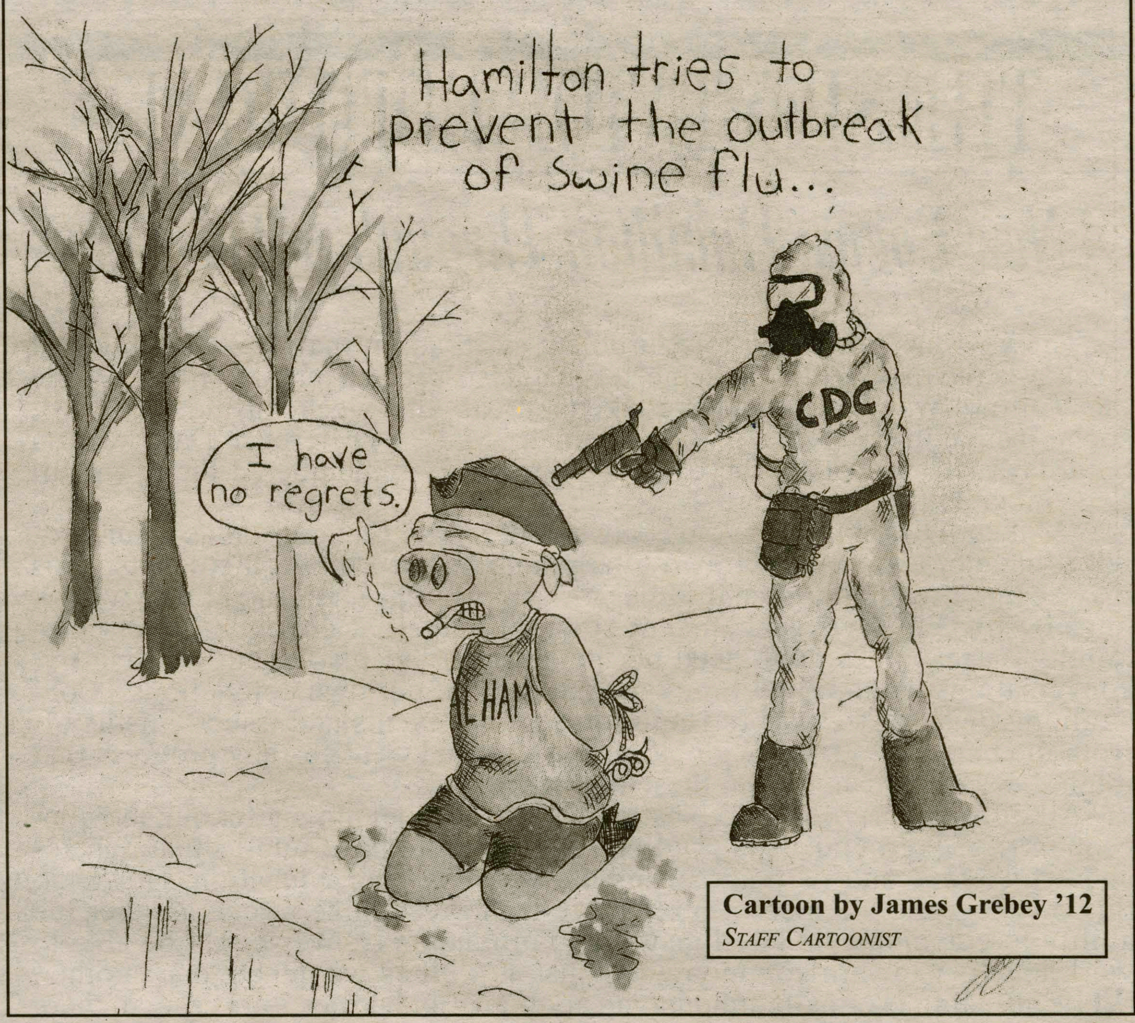
Letters to the Editor



Cartoon by James Grebey '12
Staff Cartoonist

Dear Editors,

This summer, 34 New York City children found out once again just how special summer is in Columbia & Dutchess Counties. Fresh Air Fund hosts, volunteers and local supporters dedicated their time and efforts to help these inner-city youngsters experience simple summertime pleasures in your community.

None of this would be possible without Yvette Rogers, your local Fresh Air Fund volunteer leader, who works throughout the year to make sure host families and children have the opportunity to enjoy memorable summertime experiences together. I invite you to join Yvette and the local Fresh Air Fund committee to help spread the word about the wonderful opportunity of hosting next summer.

The Fresh Air Fund, an independent, not-for-profit agency, has provided free summer vacations to over 1.7 million New York City children from low-income communities since 1877. For more information on how you can help to continue this wonderful tradition of volunteering, please call Yvette Rogers at 845-835-8100 or visit www.freshair.org (where you can also check out photos from 2009!).

Sincerely,

Jenny Morgenthau
Executive Director

To the Editor:

I was at breakfast in Commons earlier this week when I noticed a flyer for a first-year Honor Court candidate, with the catchy slogan "Cheating at Humans vs. Zombies? Not at my Hamilton!" On the balcony, there was a huge sign for the field hockey team, stating "No cheering fans: Not at My Hamilton!" There are uses the activists that created that slogan clearly did not envision. Yet these are signs of a broader problem, which is exemplified in the recent opinion piece by Allison Eck '12 and Kate Moore '12, which should concern all members of our community who desire to change the campus environment.

Eck and Moore's opinion piece makes a few trenchant points about community forums. I agree that over-sensitivity, while understandable considering a larger social context, is not conducive to achieving broader goals of social change. We are all flawed people; the only difference is in degree. If one wants to find injustice in the world, they will find it easily. It is easy to get bogged down in these series of slights and lose view of the big picture: where we want to go as a community and determining how we get there. Their piece also makes very poor points, utilizing antagonistic language that stereotypes those who participate in these campus-wide dialogues. The underlying message I gained from their piece was that the Hamilton community is a hollow shell, filled with groups of people with no connections to each other beyond a name on a diploma. Eck and Moore dismiss the core aspects of a community, stating that students do not share common experiences or values, that we do not and cannot understand each other. This view of the student body in essence tells people they shouldn't care about anyone else here, that we as people are incapable of change and shouldn't waste time trying. This is a self-serving argument, trivializing those from historically marginalized groups as cry babies who need to "suck it up."

This opinion piece is symptomatic of broader issues: many members of the student body have stopped listening to discussions on topics relating to gender, orientation and race, using rationalizations such as those used by Eck and Moore to justify apathy. There is a clear sense of exhaustion with these topics, a feeling that talking about these issues is not worth the emotional cost. Activists on these issues are increasingly seen as a target for ridicule. During the ongoing controversy about the Alpha Delta Phi party theme, students of both genders across the social spectrum use the slogan "Not at My Hamilton" as a joke, a punch line in discussions, Facebook album titles and even a team name at Trivia Night.

This disengagement is partially the legacy of the Mexican Night incident that scarred our community's psyche. The more traditional student, many of whom view themselves as accepting and liberal, found this incident deeply alienating, making them wary of the prominent campus activists on these issues who seemed willing to escalate a misunderstanding in the name of promoting a broader agenda. Mistrust on both sides led to a broader fracturing of the student body, as students across the social spectrum increasingly spend their time in echo chambers, isolated from those who disagree with them. This increases stereotypes and misconceptions, as activists see the typical student as self-satisfied and ignorant, while those students see the activists as self-righteous and judgmental.

The piece's biggest flaw is that it defines the Hamilton community based on what divides us rather than our commonalities. We may come from vastly different places with vastly different backgrounds, but in the end we all share common ground. A College Democrat and College Republican have wildly different viewpoints, but they share a common love for politics and the democratic process. A gay man and his straight friend appreciate Megan Fox for totally different reasons, but can bond over their common love of the Yankees (or the Sox). A Latina from the Bronx and a white man from Connecticut have totally different upbringings, but they can agree that *The Hangover* was hilarious. And all of us share at least one piece of common ground with every other person on this campus: we belong to this community on the Hill, right here, right now, and that's something no one can take away from us. All our dialogues must be built on what unites us rather than what divides us, this common ground we all share. As Bill Clinton once said, "former adversaries can come together and find common ground… to let go of the past and embrace the future, to forgive and to reconcile."

-Will Leubsdorf '10

Tactics Employed by Campus Groups are Unjust

by Patrick Landers '12
Opinion Writer

Since I matriculated last fall, Hamilton College has lived up to a quote I read once in a "coffee table" book, in which Henry Kissinger remarked, "University politics are vicious precisely because the stakes are so small."

It is an unfortunate state of affairs, but I think many Hamilton community members would agree with this assessment. Subjects like inequality, diversity and tolerance imply a certain amount of fervor since these issues are of vital importance for many community members.

But according to the student handbook, Hamilton College is supposed to be "an environment…where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity and reason." I feel that a number of students, faculty members and their surrogate campus organizations have lost sight of this ideal. In a fierce attempt to achieve certain goals through the campus political system, these individuals and groups have turned to harsh tactics that only serve to alienate other students and community members. This results in the self-destructive nature of many of their activities.

First, this faction has seemingly embraced the idea that "if you're not 100 percent with us, you're 100 percent opposed to us." If you do not agree with their positions on every issue, you are wrong and, by implication, intolerant or bigoted. No compromise is needed or called for, since their movement and ideas are infallible. Differences of opinion are due to your small-mindedness and incomplete understanding of the issue.

This attitude is so blatant that many students will not support their movement and broad agenda out of sheer disgust. If you look at many issues raised by these groups and individuals, I think you would find that most students agree with the general direction of concern. However, the extreme responses and tactics used are totally out of proportion to the offense. Not everything is a harbinger of civilization's impending collapse.

Another example of poor strategy is that these groups embrace the vilifying of opponents, suppression of speech and faculty intimidation. Verbally defaming your audience is not going to persuade them. Attempting to repress opposition resulting from differences of opinion will only ensure individuals' continued animosity. The most disturbing action is the blatant strong-arm tactics utilized by members of the faculty. It is not a professor's job to indoctrinate his students and menace them with the threat of academic retribution for differences of opinion. It seems that portions of the faculty possess little objectivity.

Finally, I feel that these groups and individuals operate under the idea that "if they give an inch, it's a sign of weakness and we should push for more." No – it means that individuals agree with you on this principle, this instance. If I give you a hand, don't take my arm. Eventually I'll just stop giving you a hand.

The sad part is that I agree with so many of their short-term concerns. This campus, and in particular its social scene, exploits and degrades women and non-heterosexuals. Students from less affluent socioeconomic classes do face greater obstacles to success. But many of this movement's extreme tactics and rhetoric just alienate people so completely that they lose all desire to support it. With many students pushed into disaffection, these organizations' plans for positive change are unlikely to progress far.

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

Are We Becoming Colgate?

Potential Starbucks Infiltration Puts Opus Lovers on Defensive

by Tracey Ogagba '12
Opinion Writer

Among the Hamilton facts campus tour guides explain ad nauseam, a few things are perhaps stressed the most: Jon Stewart came here, we have a varsity streaking team, and Café Opus sells addictive chocolate chip cookies. In fact, anyone who hasn't had an Opus cookie must either be allergic to cookies or deranged; everyone knows this. Opus and Opus 2 have become a part of Hamilton culture.

We at Hamilton take immense pride in the characteristics that distinguish us from all other small northeastern liberal arts colleges. Now that the College has cracked down on streaking, Opus and its strangely addictive cookies, peculiar decorations and famous Mango Brie Panini is basically all we have to write home about.

But what's going to happen when our bubble is invaded by the multinational Starbucks in the new Emerson Hall? Of course a lot of students are excited for this addition, but a lot of students are actually saddened. To these students, Opus is a big part of their Hamilton experience.

Introducing a more popular national brand like Starbucks to campus would not only eclipse the significance of Opus, but it would make Hamilton dangerously similar to Colgate. At times like these, it is crucial that Hamilton embrace the things that make it unique, not fall in line with the things that every other college is used to doing. It would seem that students would take more pride in explaining Opus to family and friends back home as opposed to a coffee shop that exists on nearly every street in every city.

I have to admit, Starbucks is a great place. I, as well as the rest of the country, visit all the time when I'm back home. While Starbucks has much to offer Hamilton as far as consumerism goes, it lacks in culture and eccentricity. You can't walk into Starbucks and admire the random assortments of clippings on the wall, nor will the cash register be covered in odd coins.

Of course Starbucks would not be completely replacing Opus, nor is it running it off campus. But there are so many wonderful things about Opus that many students will forget about as soon as they see the familiar white and green Starbucks cups around campus.

It seems, though, that if there are actually so many students in opposition to this invasion by Starbucks, Opus should be fine. There is clearly a strong fan base that will continue to visit Opus.

However, is this will only last so long. As new freshmen come to campus, they might not understand the significance of Opus and will instead see the appeal of the easily recognizable Starbucks. In a matter of years Opus's role on campus will be forgotten and extinct. Slowly, fewer people will take notice of the eclectic music playing in Opus or the rare days Mango Brie Paninis are sold, and will instead be focused on grabbing a Java Chip frappucino.

Thumbs Up

The Cider Mill: Hurry and visit it now -- in November the CIder Mill closes its doors to the public and turns back into Oneida County's largest meth lab.

Donating Blood: You get a free cookie and you get righteously sh*t-tanked much more quickly that night.

The Knit Happens Cookie Bandit: I don't know who you are, but I think I'm in love.

Juggling Club and Capoeira practice together in front of the science center -- the Mayans were right, the apocalypse is nigh.

Thumbs Down

Cable TV survey: Go ahead. Take my cable. See what happens to Joe Urgo's scooter.

Lil Tex Mex: It took me 90 minutes to get my delivery last night. As far as I'm concerned, you've ruined town-gown relations for good.

No lids in Commons: It's bad enough I have to drink the sh*tty coffee. I don't need to wear it too.

The secret pseudonyms of Afternoon Delight writers: Listen, Slim, you're a bunch of unfunny goofballs in Clinton, not a gang from South Central L.A.

Who Cares?

Humans vs. Zombies: With all these bandanas around it's hard to tell who's playing and who's just an obnoxious hipster.

Teach for America: Because the thing America's impoverished children need the most is a role model who walks out on them after two years for a better paying job.

Origins of the Economic Crisis and the Ways Out: Bros, I've got some bad news. Apparently chopping up lines of blow with our dads' platinum cards isn't the solution.

My Hamilton News Feed: It's too cold to care about your summer intership.

by Anthony DelConte '10, Nathan Fedrizzi '10, and Lesley Ryder '11

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

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Not Abroad, but "Off-Campus" Doesn't Cut It

by Brooke E. Rayder '11
Features Contributor

PHOTO COURTESY OF NORA GRENFELL '12
Above, New York City's Central Park. Below, a souvenir from the Hamilton trip.

After two weeks in New York City, I've realized the students of the Hamilton New York City Program are truly in the middle. We're not quite at Hamilton, we're not quite abroad and we're not quite New Yorkers.

We take classes in the comfort of our own apartments on Wednesday mornings and Thursday nights. The average 20-year-old college student could not afford these apartments. The typical Hamilton student on campus can roll out of bed, trek outside and be in class in ten minutes. We hop in the elevator, rubbing elbows with swanky trust-fund babies and their tiny dogs, clutching our coffee mugs. But that coffee doesn't come from Commons. You can make your own or run to the closest Starbucks. Try the Commons 8:50 a.m. rush with eight million people.

Losing the convenience of dining halls was definitely a shock. Some of us pick up lunch around the office while others bring it with us. Shelling out the money to buy food can be painful. However, one of the advantages of New York is the abundance of good food. Not just good food, but organic, fresh and incredibly expensive food. Yet when I want a grilled cheese, I don't need organic, fancy cheese. I want processed, fatty, cheap American cheese, but finding those cherished cheese singles is difficult. Sometimes when I find them, I'll shell out the $5.00 just because it's a familiar, comfortable Kraft label.

Hamilton students don't have this predicament, but many students studying abroad do. Obviously foreign food is different, not to mention the language barrier that can often result in some mistaken purchases. I've heard a lot of Hamilton students who are abroad say, "the alcohol is cheaper than water over here!" This is definitely not true in NYC. While Hamilton students might worry about the hard liquor points system, we're more worried about the effects of hard liquor on our wallets.

Another familiar characteristic of abroad programs is the very relaxed academic responsibilities. Hamilton has taught us to work hard, and those qualities don't necessarily translate into another educational system. Half the battle for NYC program students is the academic load, but the other half is going to work. It's a very different type of learning. How often do Hamilton students dress up in a power suit for class? Work, not nights out, often generates the most memorable stories for us. For example, Natalie De Boursac '11 came out of her first week at the BBC with a giant stuffed animal. Having several large creatures sitting around the office, many employees had decided it would be appropriate to get rid of them. Nat quickly volunteered to take one home.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BROOKE RAYDER '11

What she did not take into account was the size and weight of the beloved animal. She walked from the middle of Times Square all the way to the subway, and threw the stuffed animal over the turnstile. "Wilbur" rode on the subway in the middle of rush hour. Nat then carried him home to the 32nd floor, and wiped him with baby wipes after the big ride home. He now resides happily in our apartment. When asked about the experience, Nat acknowledges how ridiculous she probably looked, but that New Yorkers were happy to help, something she wasn't expecting.

Living in the adult world and having adult moments has its ups and downs, but we still have those types of mishaps to rely on for a good laugh. We enjoyed the time we took the subway to Brooklyn because we accidentally got on the express instead of the local and covering the kitchen in potato chunks after a cooking mishap.

As the program continues, we find ourselves becoming more and more familiar with New York. The first two weeks have been about finding something familiar to hold onto. For me, that moment was on the downtown 1-2-3 line. A fellow rider pointed to a TKE pin on my messenger bag, and then up to a similar pin on his hat. We ended up talking about our schools for ten minutes before he got off. The best part was that he wasn't what Hamilton students think of when they think of TKE. But that's just it: we're broadening our horizons, and remembering that even in a crowd, there are still connections to be made.

Professor "Doc" Woods Presents "Bop My Gospel Soul"

by Kari Arneson '10
Features Writer

"Alright, I'm going to do something different, something you're not used to," Professor Mike "Doc" Woods told the audience during Bop My Gospel Soul, a concert he and his friends puton.

The Filius Events Barn was overflowing with Hamilton students, alumni, professors and Clinton residents last Tuesday night as musicians performed several recently written jazz and soul tunes by Woods, as well as gospel music and even some Michael Jackson hits.

"Doc" Woods, a professor of music, composer, bassist and the director of Jazz Studies at Hamilton, brought together some of the area's best jazz and gospel artists for the annual Jazz Kick-Off Event.

Guest artists included drummer Jakubu Griffin, who impressed the audience with his remarkable solos; Chosen Generation, the gospel choir from St. Matthew's Temple Church of God in Christ of Utica, who had everyone singing along to some lively gospel tunes; and gospel soloist Astena Smith, who was the voice behind the Michael Jackson hits performed Tuesday night.

PHOTO BY KARI ARNESON '10

The night started off with Woods and the other jazz musicians performing some of Woods' own compositions. Woods introduced his songs by wisely telling the audience to "buckle your seat belts," as they were in for a "surreal" experience. This warning was apt, as his new compositions both challenged and excited the audience. Woods then took a break and let Astena Smith and backup singers lead the musicians in a tribute to Michael Jackson.

Woods called Jackson "one of the greatest entertainers of our generation," and one of his biggest personal influences. At one point, Woods asserted that Jackson's music videos being shown on MTV for the first time was as much a breakthrough for African Americans as was Thurgood Marshall's appointment to the Supreme Court. He told the audience that Jackson's innocence and profundity contributed to his popularity because people really believed what he was singing.

The guest musicians, led by vocalist Smith, played three Jackson hits: "Another Part of Me," "You Are Not Alone" and "Man in the Mirror." The reaction from the crowd was overwhelming as they swayed to the music of a legend. The musicians, especially Smith, were passionate and committed to giving their best in order to honor the King of Pop. There was a sense of unity and pride as the musicians came together to interpret some of the most poignant of Jackson' songs.

Woods introduced his songs by wisely telling his audience to "buckle your seatbelts," as they were in for a "surreal" experience.

The night ended with a moving performance by the St. Matthew's praise choir that made people get on their feet to clap and sing along. For many, "Bop My Gospel Soul" was one of the liveliest and most soulful concerts seen at Hamilton in a long time. It was just the beginning, though, as many exciting concerts are sure to follow. Stay tuned for upcoming jazz concerts at Hamilton!

FROM WHERE I SIT
HAMILTON'S INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

My Never-Ending Journey to Hamilton College

by Jose Mendez Gutierrez '13
Features Contributor

"Congratulations, you have made it into Hamilton College."

Those were the exact words I had longed to hear since the day I sent in my application. The words appeared in front of me on my computer screen, and if actions are supposed to speak louder than words, it was not the case that day. I channeled all the emotions I had carried for several months into a single scream of joy, which probably scared my neighbors. All the stress that had been building up from past college rejections dissolved into this single idea: Hamilton was opening its doors to me.

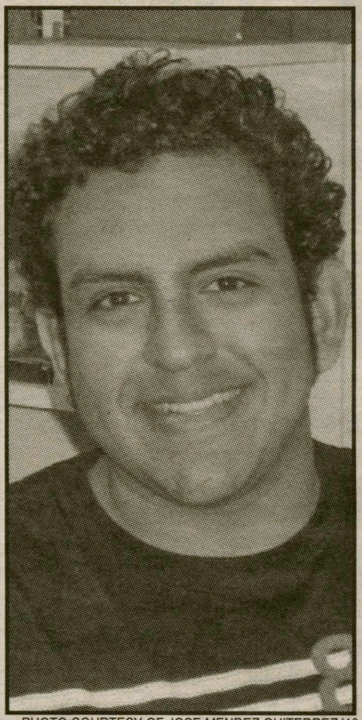

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSE MENDEZ GUITERREZ '10

Eager to share this news with someone, I found myself alone in my house, with the maid as my only companion. She became an instant target, and though probably not as excited as I was, she welcomed my triumph. By the end of that Friday night, most of my family was aware of my accomplishment.

The next day, with the same strength I had released my euphoria, a bold thought struck me. I came to the realization that in a couple months, I would be saying good-bye to Honduras, the place that had sheltered the first 18 years of my life. With this realization came a long list of "firsts."

It was going to be the first time I would be living independently, the first time traveling on an airplane, the first time being in the United States, the first time using a second language on a daily basis, the first time making thoughtful decisions in relation to money and the first time I would truly be taking care of myself.

On the morning of August 20, all these thoughts became my reality. In a matter of minutes, I was flying over the Atlantic Ocean, with my mother, my sister and my superstitious thoughts in the seats beside me. Remembering plane crashes, unpredictable turbulence and turmoil in all the fictional movie material I knew of, I started imagining random scenarios, until I saw my sister confidently sitting with her belt on, not a hint of fear on her face. As fast as those irrational thoughts came to me, they left me.

We landed at Atlanta International Airport, and my "firsts" list was trimming down. My initial reaction was to take the American culture at full speed. I found myself running from one place to another and I finally got to understand the concept behind "fast food" restaurants. With that same speed, before I knew it I was in New Jersey.

From New Jersey, I took a long bus trip to the Village of Clinton. Passing by doll-like houses, I reached my final destination. The bus driver did his best to leave us in a convenient spot on campus, but despite his attempts to direct me, I was completely lost. My mother's maternal instinct took over as she told me I had to walk north, and so I did.

Sitting on a bench, there was a faculty member, and so I walked towards him convinced that he would know the campus. No, he didn't. It happened that he was a new faculty member and was also confused. He handed me a map, and together we figured out the location of Dunham Hall. Wishing the squirrels could talk and guide me, I made my way through the tall buildings. Suddenly, as if my face had "HELP!" written on it, an RA assisted me.

As soon as I got the keys to my room, I opened the door and spontaneously threw myself onto the bed, to measure if I would be able to fit on it. After doing so, my roommate came in. I only had a vague idea of who he was, and so I had previously hypothesized about his personality, habits and cultural differences before getting to know him. After greeting me affectionately, he introduced himself, and thereafter, I knew I was home.

During my second day at Hamilton, I had to say my farewells to my mother and sister. From that point on, I realized I was alone: Jose Mendez and the Hamilton community; no mom to find if I got sick, no one to do my laundry: none of what I was used to having in my comfort zone. I was on my own.

Orientation week was the best transition to my college life. I will never forget Ms. Maura Collen's message on diversity. As an international student, I felt her speech was warm and welcoming. It made me grasp the idea that Hamilton College is a close knit community where cultural differences are celebrated. This is the place where I want to build a new life based on independence, self-commitment, discipline and most importantly, education.

The Co-Op: A Unique Living Experience

Residents of Woollcott House create their own community

by Rebecca Pomerantz '12
Features Writer

After the terror of first year assigned housing passes, quite a world of residential opportunity opens up. Among the lesser known residential options is the Woollcott House—more commonly referred to as the "Co-Op."

The building, once the Theta Delta Chi fraternity house, became the property of the College in 1995 and was re-named the Alexander Woollcott House in 2000 in honor of successful alumnus Alexander Woollcott, Class of 1909.

PHOTO BY ANDY RICHARDSON '10

The Woollcoot House encourages a sustainable lifestyle

To those who desire the benefits and responsibilities of living in the house, it can be challenging to claim a room. This is exemplified by Manique Talaia-Murray '12, the only sophomore in Wollcott, who smiles proudly as she walks through the common room.

In general, the campus community seems to understand that those living in the Co-Op cook their own food. While this is true, there is also a whole slew of other tasks and activities.

Aside from practicing sustainability, the students in the Co-Op sign up every Sunday for jobs and complete about five hours of "house work" each week. The massive dry-erase board turned work chart in the dining room displays jobs that range from cleaning and cooking to shopping for groceries, washing dishes and cooking or baking. "My favorite job is to take out the compost!" claims Ethan Kamer '10.

What makes college kids want to shoulder these "dirty jobs?" Simple. "You don't have to do a job that you don't want to do. But everyone enjoys doing different jobs, so in the end everything gets done" says Talaia-Murray.

To aid in the process of cooking, the College re-did the entire kitchen this past summer, replacing and industrializing everything. "We try to eat as locally as possible, so we buy much of our food from Tom's in Clinton, a bulk foods provider and the Community Garden, which we are not directly affiliated with but support in a big way," Talaia-Murray explains. "The food is so good because the ingredients are amazing."

By selecting and making their own food, many of the residents develop smarter eating habits. Laura Mattison '10 elaborates, "I think the Co-Op kids are going to eat a lot better in their first years out of college because they have had this experience."

Among an array of dishes from the house's personal cookbook library, Talaia-Murray cites a night of black bean and corn salsa with quesadillas as her favorite meal so far. Mattison follows this up by describing the favored common practice of eating candied ginger and chocolate chips for dessert.

Sounds great, right? So why does it seem so many people are afraid of or uncertain about the Co-Op? "A lot of people don't understand service and labor within the house and even though we don't do as much as the general staff on campus, we simply feel like we contribute to our lifestyles in a small way," notes Talaia-Murray. In general, it's different and it's certainly a commitment, but it's not an exclusive community in any way. The atmosphere is very welcoming to visitors or anyone who is simply curious about their lifestyle. The Co-Op is "whatever you want it to be," Talaia-Murray concludes.

Those who live in the Co-Op reap a lot of benefits, and as a result positivity is the general attitude within the house. Each resident expresses his happiness in his own terms. "There's no better way to wake up than to the smell of granola baking!" gushes Caty Taborda '11.

To sum it up, Kamer adds, "You can live in a dorm where you don't know many people... but this is the only place where you will know and work with friendly people all of the time. It feels like you are living in a real home."

LAST CHANCE

Like Sex?

Want to write about it?

***The Spectator* is looking for a new sex columnist (or several) for its weekly column, "Spectator Between the Sheets."**
Please send a sample column and a brief description of why you'd make a great sex columnist to ngrenfel@hamilton.edu.

Submissions are due Sept. 18th

Do you have questions for
Dave Eng
Assistant Director of Student Activities?
Email them to hkeller or ngrenfel.

Bachelor & Bachelorette of the Week

Amanda Nelson '12

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMANDA NELSON

Hometown: *Farmland, PA.*
Major: *Calisthenics.*
Turn On? *Burly men, 90's Pop.*
Turn Off? *Romance, long walks on the beach, a sense of humor.*
What is your worst habit?
Something much too inappropriate for this publication…
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians which would you pick and why?
Enrique Iglesias and Beyonce Knowles.
What advertising slogan best describes your life?
Snap, crackle, pop!
What movie genre best describes you?
Black Comedy.
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you?
"How old are you again?"
If you could have any super power what would it be and why?
Something too inappropriate for this publication…
If you were any social space what would it be and why?
ELS at the moment, because it's a mess.
If you could get rid of one group on campus what would it be and why?
The Zombies.
If you could join one group on campus what would it be and why?
People who like to do fun things, because I like to do fun things.
What would you say is your most attractive quality?
The ability to fill out random surveys on short notice.
If you had to create a new points system, what would be the #1 offense?
Unfunny drunk texts.
If you could trade jobs with anyone at Hamilton for one day, who would it be and why?
Campus safety, for the sense of power and entitlement.
If you were God, what would be the first thing you would do to the world?
Global dance party.
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, what would you do?
I would fill my room with candles, tapestries, and Christmas lights.
What would you give a thumbs up?
Why Not Wednesdays.
What would you give a thumbs down?
Losing the game.
Who would you say is your campus crush?
The Al Ham Statue.
Who would you say is your faculty crush?
G. Robert Kolb.
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room?
The detour sign that used to be on Martin's Way.

Jono Peters '10

PHOTO COURTESY OF JONATHAN PETERS

Hometown: *Rye, NY*
Major: *World Politics*
Turn On? *Sundresses, Athletic, Black and White Milkshakes.* **Turn Off?** *Needy, Uptight girls.*
What is your worst habit?
Tricking Andrew Miller when he's drunk. It's too easy. And my addiction to Mac and Cheese.
If you were a dorm which would you be and why?
The VT, you can live there, right?
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians which would you pick and why?
Mike Jones and Taylor Swift. I need not say more.
If you had to create a new points system what would be the #1 offense?
Writing for Afternoon Delight.
What advertising slogan best describes your life?
Welcome to shark week, baby!
What movie genre best describes you?
Action Comedy.
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *"At least I'm not Zeus…"*
If you were a major, which would you be and why?
Women's Studies, because I'm a great pacifist.
If you could have any super power what would it be and why?
Flight. Because I've always wanted to be a part of a real flying V.
If you were a cold cut, which would you be and why?
Roast beef, because I'm a piece of meat.
If you were any social space, which would you be and why?
Milbank 27, Motown and flip cup.
If you could join one group on campus, which would it be and why?
PBX because they're hot like nachos.
What would you say is your most attractive quality?
My boyish charm, whatever.
If you could trade jobs with anyone at Hamilton for a day, who would it be?
Dale in Milbank because he's the man.
What would you give a thumbs-up?
(813): If you die in college, do you die in real life?
-textsfromlastnight.com
What would you give a thumbs-down?
Trying to get rid of Cable TV.
Who would you say is your campus crush?
Eliza Fraser, the most overrated freshman girl.
Who would you say is your faculty crush?
Natalia Connolly.
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room?
Ninja tips for Healthy Living

Behind President Stewart's Sabbatical

by Katrina Raebler '12
Features Writer

Hamilton College President Joan Hinde Stewart recently returned to the Hill after a semester's sabbatical. Contrary to popular belief, she did not spend it loitering in French cafés and pondering the Eiffel Tower. In fact, she was in France for only five days.

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President Stewart spent her six month sabbatical at her former home in Durham, North Carolina, mostly at a desk, writing a book about women and aging in 18th century France.

The book is a literary criticism of correspondences of real women, specifically focused on how these women talked about growing old, compared to the fictional representations of aging women in 18th century literature.

After studying vast amounts of correspondences and novels, Stewart came to the conclusion that real women in France were very different from how they were portrayed in fiction and even in society.

President Stewart observed that "the standard wisdom of the time was that women were useless at forty. If they weren't married, they were considered an old maid." She also explained that doctors believed that women, especially aging women, had no right to any feelings. "Of course, 18th century doctors also bled people when they were sick," Stewart said.

She examined thousands of letters that offered rich and detailed portrayals of 18th century French women. She discovered that the correspondence was very different from the expectations of that age. "The women were vibrant, active professionals with strong emotions and who wrote extraordinary amounts. They were very different from the one-to-two-dimensional characters portrayed in fiction," notes Stewart.

Through her analysis of individual women, both fictional and factual, Stewart was able to paint a picture of the sometimes harsh reality these women faced.

Stewart said that she always had a passion for literature and in college fell in love with French literature and grammar. "I love good fiction dripping in plot and I love conjugating verbs," she confessed. In graduate school Stewart had a professor whom she really admired and whose specialty was 18th century French fiction. "A great teacher inspires you to do the same thing as them," she said.

Stewart soon discovered her niche: "the wise women of 18th century France." She compiled research from numerous French libraries and archives and also used Duke University's Library.

Stewart's work is not limited to the 18th century. Many of the topics she explores, such as ageism and sexism, are still very relevant today. "We've come a long way and we have a long way to go. Aging men in the 18th century were admired and considered wise while aging women were considered hags. Gender differences and perceptions are not altogether different now," she said. Stewart pointed out how Asian cultures value and respect the wisdom of aging people: "We should learn from it. People at every age have things to tell, give, and learn."

President Stewart said her background in literature prepared her well for college administration. "You might sometimes see the daughters of King Lear sitting at a meeting," she said. "You learn a lot about human nature and the collective unconscious through literature that you cannot get from real life. Literature tells something about the human condition."

Her time away from Hamilton and the pressures of administration not only gave Stewart time to focus on her academic career, but also gave her a chance to better appreciate life on the Hill.

She added, "I missed Hamilton and Clinton. My husband and I realized how much our lives are entangled with the college. I was very grateful for the opportunity to not be running in ten directions at once and able to focus, but I missed this place." She explained that being away from the school gave her a chance to see Hamilton in a new light. "You feel that pride with more intensity and clarity when you're not worrying about the daily problems." She also said she was reminded of the excellent staff at Hamilton. "I'm very proud of them. Joe Urgo and Pat Reynolds did a terrific job. I'm now even more grateful for our team."

The first thing Stewart did upon returning to the college was to organize a staff retreat to begin thinking about goals for the college. These included continuing proposals to be need-blind despite the present economy, ensuring the quality of the Hamilton experience, continuing to diversify, building inclusiveness and increasing employee morale.

President Stewart is currrently finishing her manuscript and hopes to send it to the publisher soon. She is still working on the title. President Stewart's previous works include *Gynographs: French novels by women of the late eighteenth century*.

Stewart is originally from Brooklyn and received her undergraduate degree from St. Joseph's College, a small liberal arts school in Brooklyn, New York. She went on to receive her Ph.D. from Yale University in 1970.

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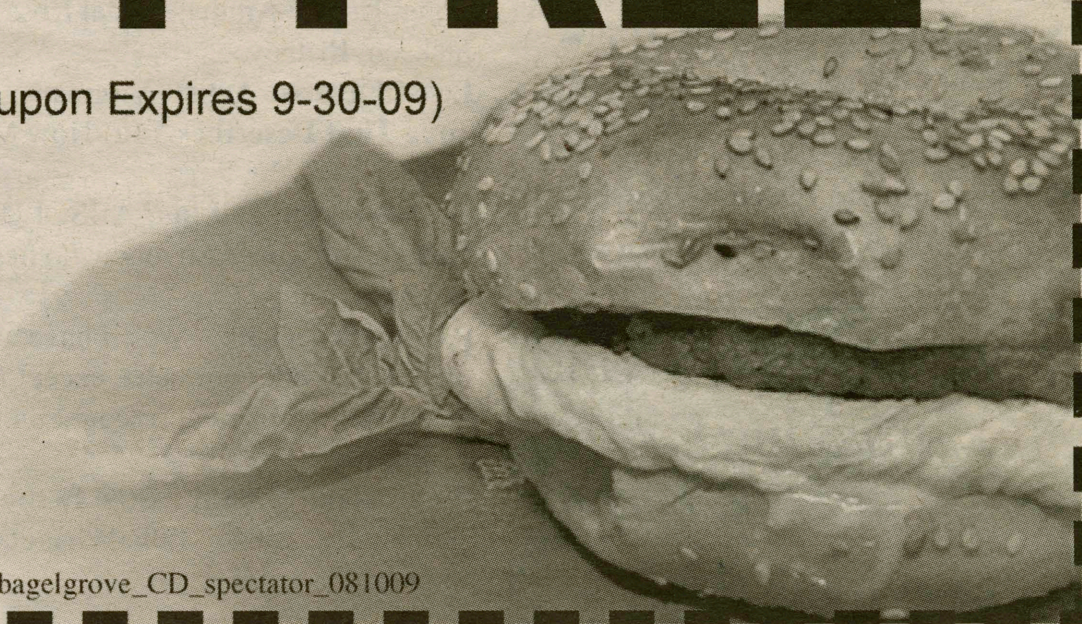

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The Dan Band to Bring Shenanigans to Campus

by Lily Rothman '13
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

If you happened to enjoy the wedding scene of the movie *Old School*, in which a slightly unusual, somewhat obscene version of "Total Eclipse of the Heart" is sung, or if you perhaps like the vulgar version of "Candy Shop," (not that this wasn't already a vulgar song) presented in the last scene of *The Hangover*, you must be a fan of the Los Angeles based comedic musical group, the Dan Band. Named by *Entertainment Weekly* as "the hottest ticket in town," The Dan Band has become somewhat of a cult group, playing frequent live shows and covering songs originally sung by female vocalists. Dan Finnerty is the creator and lead singer. Born west of Clinton in central New York, Finnerty left the countryside for Boston, where he attended Emerson College. During his time at Emerson, Finnerty gained some theatrical experience, which would prove significant in future career opportunities.

WWW.MONSTERFRESH.COM

The Dan Band, looking good enough to kill, will be on campus this weekend. From left to right, Gene Reed, lead singer Dan Finnerty, and John Kozeluh.

From Boston, he was cast in a European tour of *HAIR*, followed by travel across Europe until he landed a job in New York City as a waiter. In the city, he performed in some off-Broadway shows and was eventually cast in *Stomp*. He traveled with the cast and finally ended up in Los Angeles where he settled down and started the Dan Band.

After all of his hard work in various industries and cities around the world, Finnerty finally rose to fame after his performance in the 2003 film *Old School*, and has played a part in several movies since. On top of that, he's made appearances on shows with Jimmy Kimmel, Jay Leno, Ellen DeGeneres and Carson Daly, among others. In an interview with *Entertainment Weekly*, Finnerty admits, "It started off as a joke. I thought singing 'I am Woman' at karaoke was funny, then it just kept growing."

If you're a fan of satirical covers, but you consider yourself above Richard Cheese or Weird Al and being "White and Nerdy," then come to the Annex this Friday, Sept 18 at 8 p.m. to see the Dan Band, presented by CAB, live in action. It is bound to be an unmissable show!

The Dan Band
September 18
8 p.m.
Tolles Pavilion
Hamilton College

How Would You Like to Meet a Hamilton DJ?

The voices of DJs both old and new will be hitting the WHCL airwaves in this new school year

by Emily Anderson '13
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

DJ: Alex Powers
What's your DJ name? DJ Calrissian
What/Who is Calrissian? Lando's last name, from Star Wars
Show Time: Midnight-1 p.m. on Wednesdays; it's perfect
Genre(s): Rap, Rock, Alternative, Indie
Favorite Artists: The Killers, MGMT, The Virgins,
Least Favorite Artist: Yoko Ono
Song That Describes You: Bobbin' My Head (Blak Jak)
Do you accept call-ins? No, but I will accept song requests prior to playing
Target Audience: People aged 17-23
DJ-ing Experience: None whatsover
Why People Should Listen to the Show: Because it's awesome!

Tune in for these and other amazing DJs on Hamilton's very own channel, 88.7

DJ: Tori Nygren, Hannah Fazio, LJ Scurfield, Emerson Field
Title of Your Show: The Birds and the Bees
Significance of the Title: Everything that mom and dad never told you in that brutal talk...
Type of Show: Sex talk show with an orgy of lovemaking hits from the past and present to get you going
Show Time: Thursdays @ 10 p.m.
Music Genre(s): Pop, Hip-hop, Latin, Funk, Rock, etc. If it gets you randy then we all up on that!!
Favorite Artists: Beyonce, Bloodhound Gang, Kanye, Aretha, Rafael Rosa, Michael Jackson, Britney
Least Favorite Artist: Virgins
Song That Describes You: How Many Licks?
Do you accept call-ins? ABSOLUTELY
Target Audience: Anyone who has that feeling...
DJ-ing Experience: We all have a little something under our belts, except for little LJ but he's competent so count on us to do it right.
Why People Should Listen to the Show: Simple: Sex. Music. Talk. What else would you want?

DJ: Catie Ferrara, Jane Hannon, Annie Scott
Title of Your Show: NB
Significance of the Title: No Big Deal – I think it was some sort of inside joke from freshman year I can't remember anymore.
Type of Show: Mostly all music, any talking is usually just about whatever we're playing.
Show Time: Sunday 10pm- 11pm
Music Genre(s): Indie-ish, but a mix. We also celebrate the holidays musically, and will mix in themes from time to time, such as "songs about a place."
Favorite Artists: Nick Drake, Sufjan Stevens, Bon Iver, Grizzly Bear, Arcade Fire, The Shins and Colin Hay, and pretty much anyone whose played on a *Scrubs* soundtrack.
Least Favorite Artist: Hmm....
Song That Describes You: "Music is My Hot, Hot Sex" by CSS
Do you accept call-ins? Absolutely! We'll take all requests, and actually it's been a cool way for us to find out about new music so definitely give us a call.
Target Audience: Everybody
DJ-ing Experience: We've been doing this show for five semester now, plus Catie was a DJ way back in high school.
Why People Should Listen to the Show: Because you'll probably hear a mix of songs that are old favorites, and hopefully some new ones that you'll like. You might even get the urge to sing along – we certainly do!

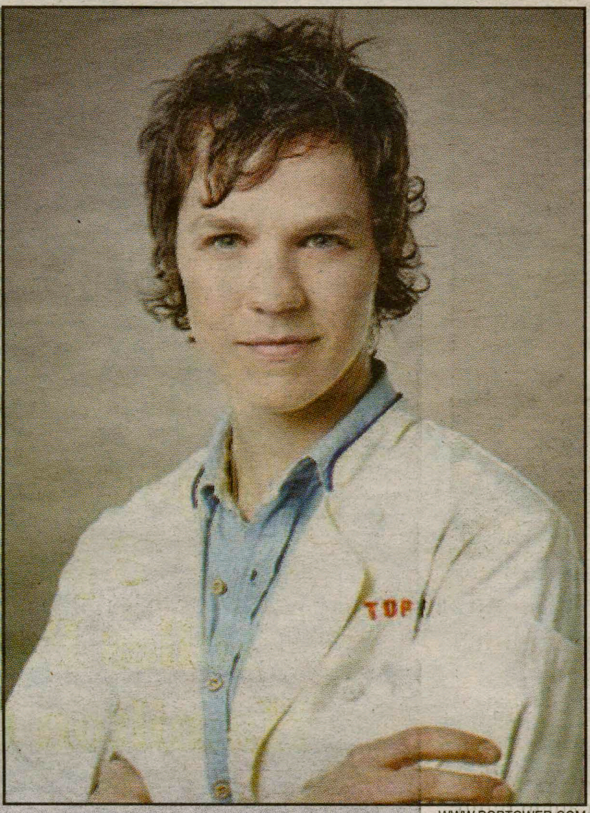
Hamilton Graduate Faces Judges on *Top Chef*

Ashley Merriman '98 shows off her culinary prowess this fall on season six of the Bravo hit

by Louisa Savage '13
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

It's always exciting to see Hamilton alumni on television, whether it's Paul Lieberstein '89 in NBC's *The Office*, or Ashley Merriman '98 in Season Six of *Top Chef: Las Vegas*. With her tattoo-covered arms and fiery attitude, Merriman definitely brings a presence to the kitchen. Hailing from Center Sandwich, New Hampshire, Merriman started working as a dishwasher at the age of eleven in the restaurant where her mother was a waitress. It was there that she decided she wanted to be a chef.

Before she began her career in food and achieved fame on *Top Chef*, Merriman was a typical Hamilton student, involved in activities ranging from women's varsity basketball to Gay Lesbian Bisexual Student Alliance. Following her graduation from Hamilton, Merriman attended the prestigious Institute of Culinary Education in New York City. She now lives in Seattle, Washington.



WWW.POPTOWER.COM

Regarding her cooking style, Merriman says she likes to cook "really robust food." She wants patrons of her restaurant to leave feeling like "they ate some amazing food," and "like they got beat in the face with a stick of butter." Her recipes can attest to this, as they feature rich combinations, such as chicken liver ravioli with red wine demi-glace, and watermelon carpaccio with cranberry powder and honey.

WWW.CACHE.DAILYLIFE.COM

Merriman '98 competes against other *Top Chef* contestants in one of the show's demanding weekly cooking challenges.

In the *Top Chef* kitchen, Merriman does not mess around. Though she has ended up in the bottom of the competition for the past two episodes (the sixth season is currently on its fourth episode), she keeps a positive attitude. Though her dishes sometimes tend to be more basic than her competitors', they are innovative nonetheless. Her only shortcoming seems to be, from a viewer's perspective, her lack of description about her creations. When presenting to the judges, Merriman tends to freeze up and quickly rattles off the ingredients of the dish. Her nervousness is understandable, given the heavy pressure of the *Top Chef* competition, which drew more than 2.5 million viewers in August.

Merriman says that, "As a chef, I'm trying to build a reputation for myself. If I do poorly, it's a huge deal... it's a huge risk, being here." She exudes an air of confidence regarding her skills, but she understands the stakes ahead of her: "It's a 1 in 17 chance at $100,000."

Her favorite summer recipe is Pan-Fried Soft Shell Crabs with Ramps and Morels, no doubt a popular dish at Seattle's Branzino, the restaurant where she currently works as a chef.

In her own kitchen, Merriman always uses extra-virgin olive oil, champagne vinegar, lemons and thyme. Her favorite tool to use is a very sharp knife, and she loves cooking with sweetbreads or octopus. If she had to choose a food she could eat for the rest of her life, Merriman would bring it back to basics with a classic: some good old pepperoni pizza.

If You Live for Live Shows

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Saturday, September 19:
8:00 p.m. —— America's Dream Chamber Artists
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The superb young musicians of America's Dream Chamber Artists are bringing about a resurgence of the great chamber music masterworks with renewed and energized freedom, making them approachable and enjoyable for all audiences. This performance features music by Mozart, Benjamin Britten, Antonin Dvorak and Paul Schoenfield.
$5 for students; $15 for general audience

WWW.MSSTATE.EDU

9:00 p.m. —— The Julia Marie Band
Fillius Events Barn Lobby
The Julia Marie Band is a three-piece indie rock group that emphasizes energy, musicality and (above all) melody. Combining elements of many styles, JMB creates a unique variety of music.

Thursday, September 24:
8:00 p.m. —— CAB Acoustic Coffeehouse: Joey Ryan
Fillius Events Barn
His voice is soulful, his lyrics smart and captivatingly unique. The California native - raised on surfing, CSNY and Dylan-thrives in the landscape of indie and DIY music.

Friday, September 25:
8:00 p.m. —— Pomerium
Wellin Hall
Cited by *The New York Times* as "the standard by which early music vocal groups are measured," Pomerium's program of mannerist music from the 16th century explores the emotional motets of Wert, Lassus, and Gesualdo.
$5 for students; $18 for general audience

The Julia Marie Band to Perform

WWW.JULIAMARIEBAND.COM

The Julia Marie Band is a small group with a big sound. Comprised of its three members, Julia Sinclair, Micah Daby and Jamie Sinclair, the group has an optimistic and thought-provoking message. All of the band members have years of experience in music, be it in classical guitar competitions or historical re-enactments. Their show is bound to leave you feeling completely uplifted and inspired!

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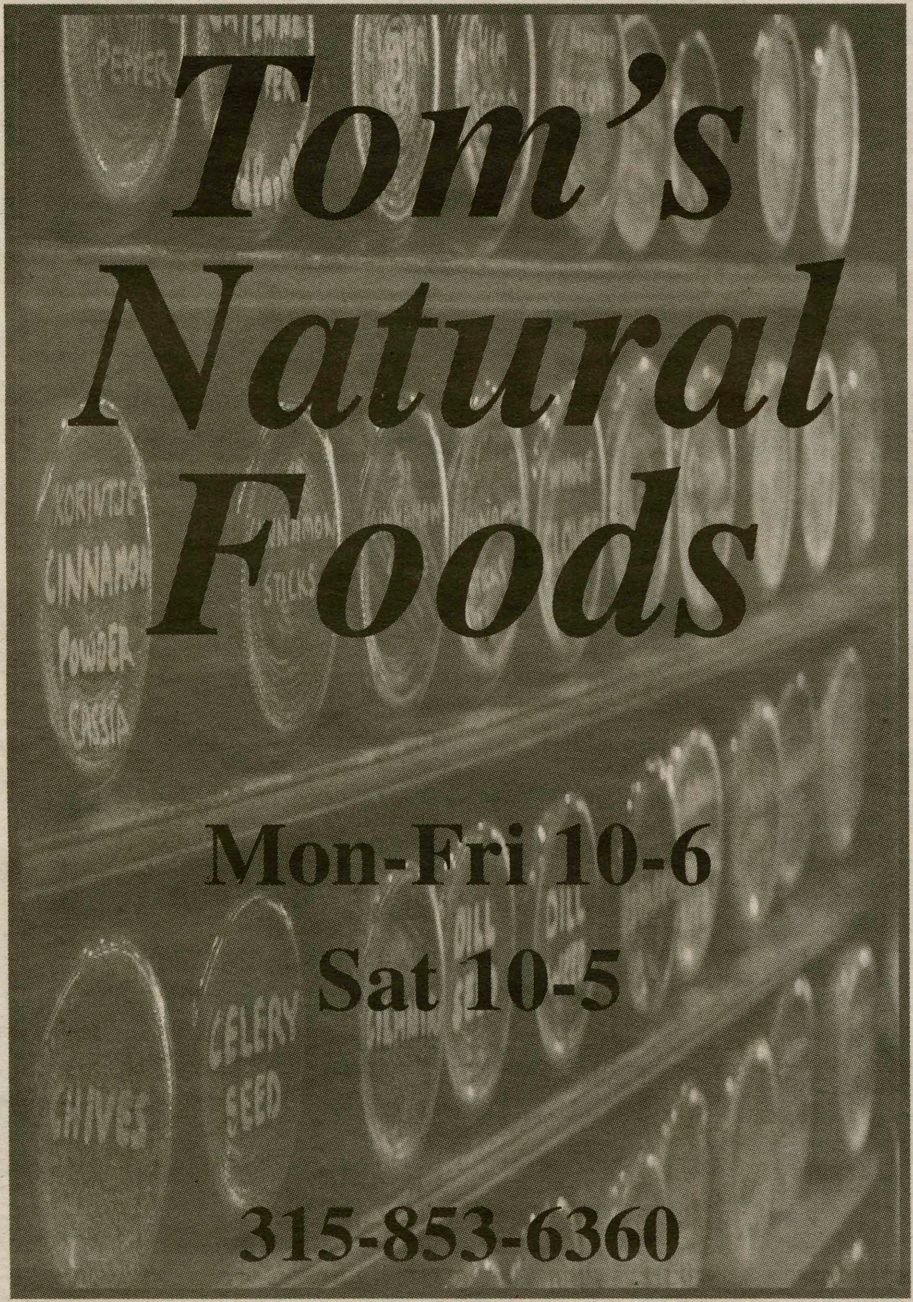

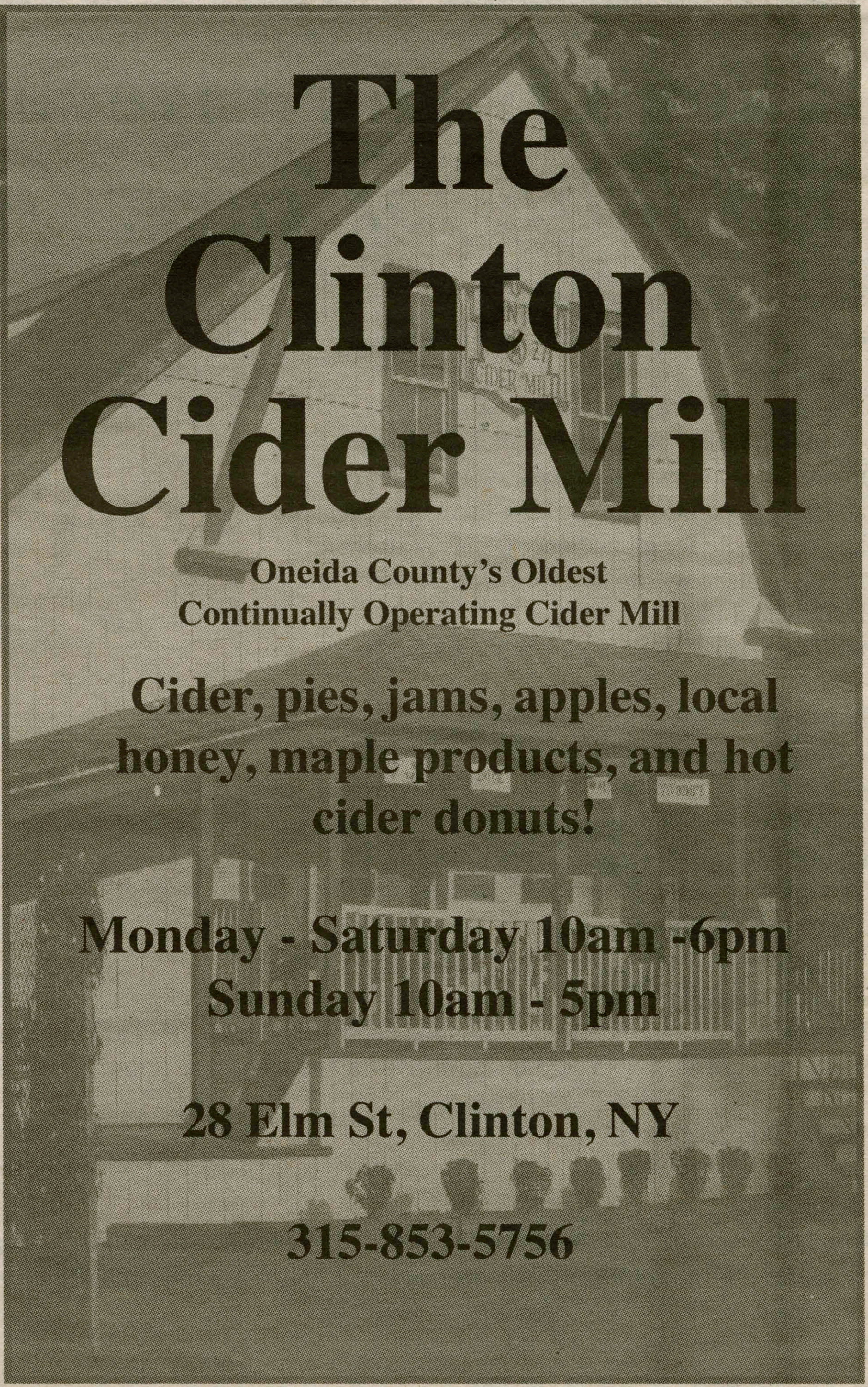

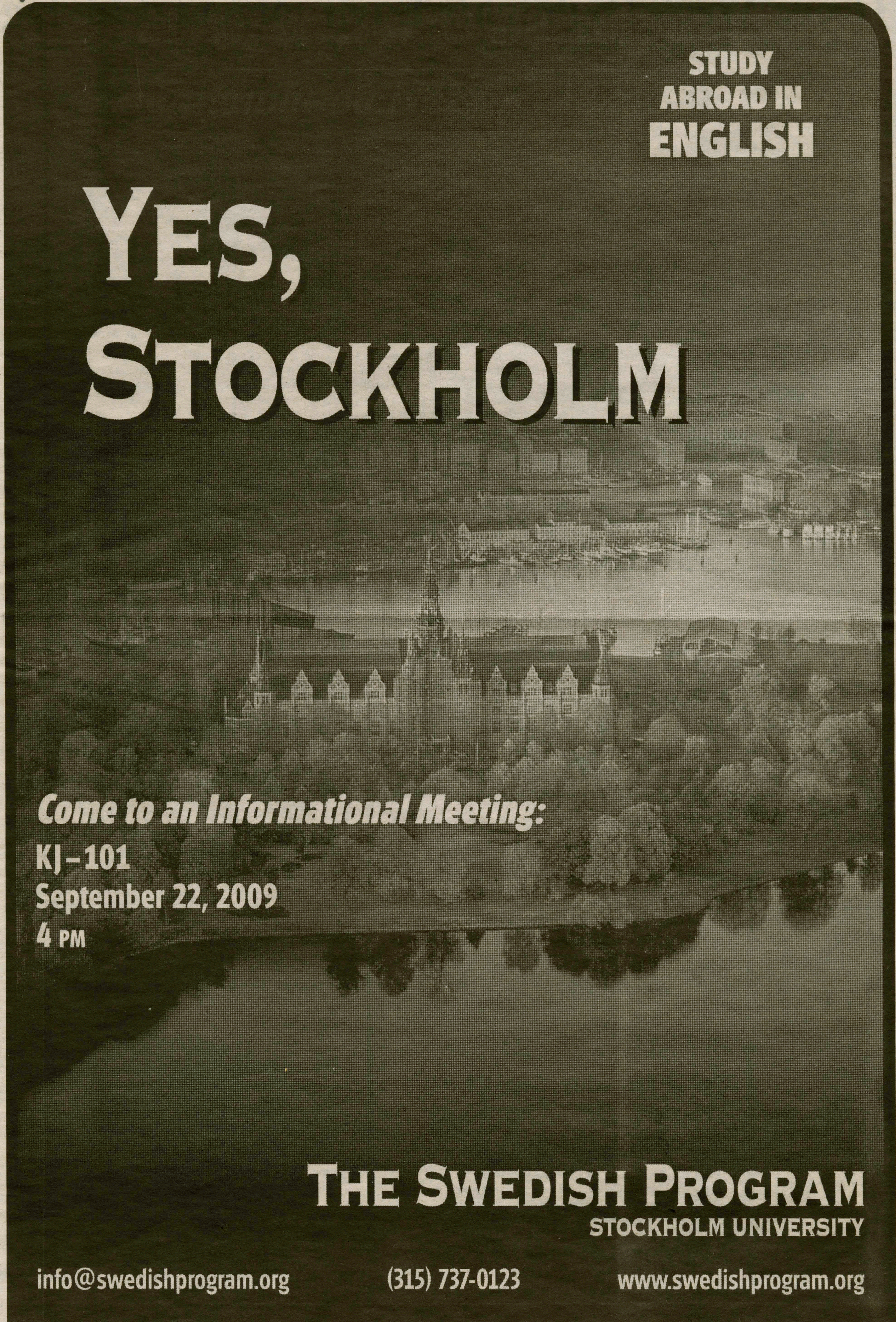
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Green Week Highlights Environmental Living

Events include Farmers' Market, biology lecture, movie showing, campus-wide cleanup

by Ben Trachtman '12
Science & Technology Editor

From Monday, Sept. 21 to Friday, Sept. 25, the Hamilton Environmental Action Group (HEAG) is hosting Green Week, a series of events and speakers to help increase environmental awareness at the College. "We've planned some neat events that we hope will interest people who would otherwise be uninterested in the green movement," said Nat Duncan '12, co-president of HEAG. "We plan on hosting more events throughout the year, so Green Week is sort of a kick-off to those events." Green Week has been a tradition for many years, going back farther than most students can remember. It grew out of HEAG's mission statement: "to inspire Hamilton to become a green campus—a campus that uses sustainable energy, recycles and is aware of its environmental impact."

Highlights of the week include a lecture by Ernest Williams, biology professor and author of *The Nature Handbook*, a movie showing and an all campus cleanup effort. The movie being shown is *Food, Inc.*, a documentary about the environmentally untenable food industry, directed by Emmy Award-winner Robert Kenner, and will be co-sponsored by the Coalition for Animal Rights Education. There will be a Farmer's Market to showcase several types of local foods, including vegetables from the Hamilton Community Farm Garden, jams and jellies from the Clinton Cider Mill and honey, herbs, kettle corn, art and jewelry from the area.

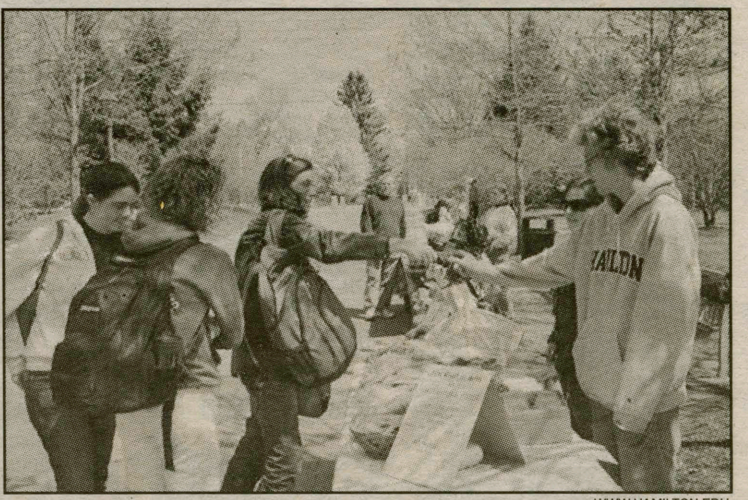
In the past, HEAG has been one of the more active groups on campus. Aside from Green Week, the group has sponsored several other events, such as a dorm energy competition which focused on reducing energy use on campus. Last year the event reduced energy use by 17 percent and saved approximately $14,000. They will sponsor the competition again this year and also monitor building heat in the winter to further reduce the College's energy consumption. HEAG was crucial in the development of Hamilton's energy dashboard, a system to monitor the school's energy use on a real-time basis, which can be found on HEAG's section of the Hamilton website.

The group has several new ideas for the upcoming year. It plans to push for changes in the dining halls on campus, including the composting of dining hall waste to help reduce Hamilton's impact on landfills. HEAG plans to extend its borders outside of Hamilton and organize a clean-up effort in Clinton as well as keeping the campus clean. One of Duncan's primary goals with the organization is to "keep in better communication with the Hamilton community," including giveaways of mugs and a bike to encourage eco-friendly behavior, like opting for reusable dishes and utensils instead of paper or plastic ones. Another event in the works is the recognition of "350 Day" in October, part of a movement to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to 350 parts-per-million, which scientists indicate is a safe level (carbon dioxide levels are currently at approximately 380 parts-per-million and are on the rise).

HEAG holds its weekly meetings on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Glen House. The meetings are open to the public and to prospective members.

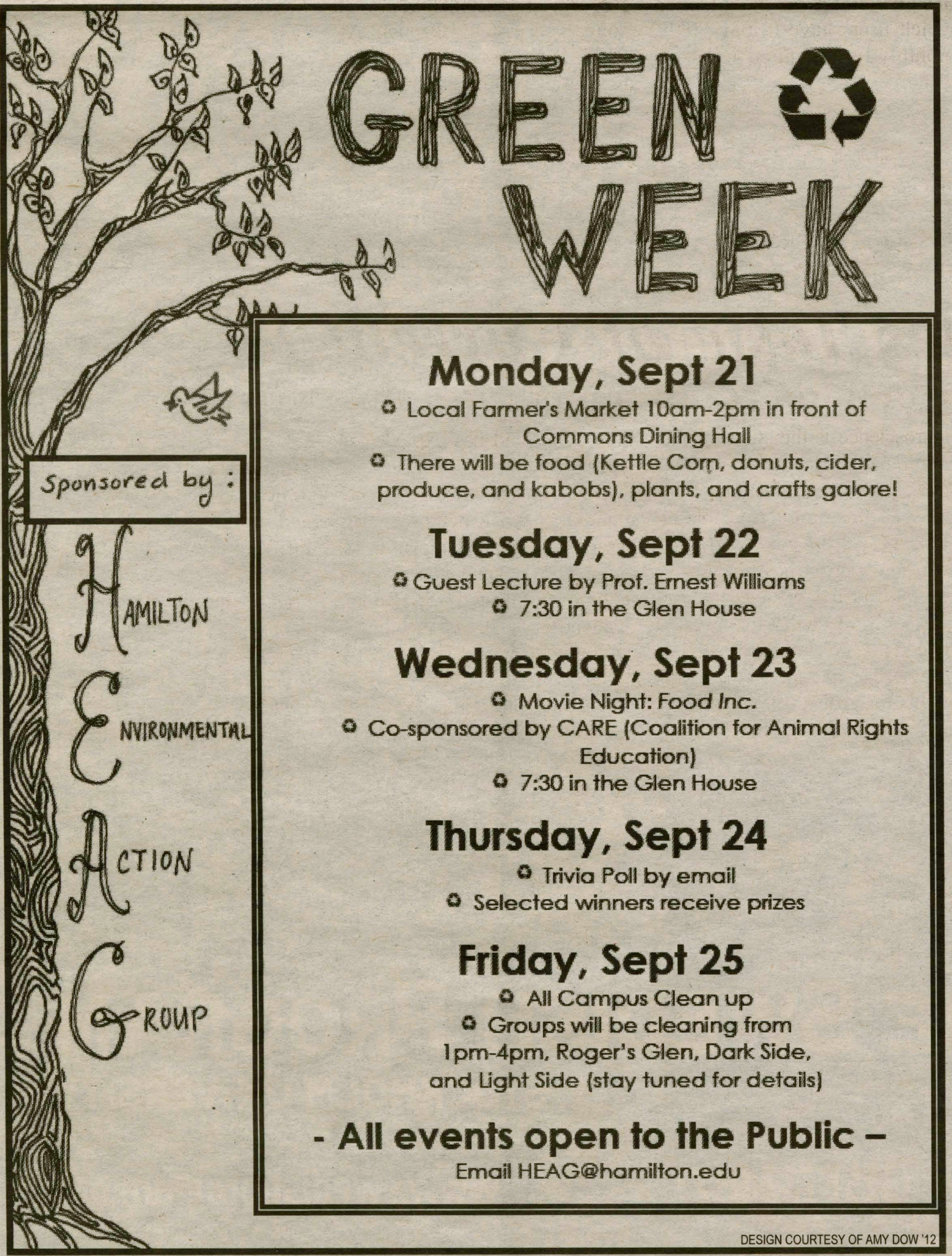
WWW.FOODINCMOVIE.COM

HEAG and the Coalition for Animal Rights Education will be screening *Food, Inc.* as part of Green Week.



WWW.HAMILTON.EDU

The Farmer's Market has been a favorite Green Week Event. This year's will be held on Monday, Sept. 21.



DESIGN COURTESY OF AMY DOW '12

Could There be Truth Behind Zombification?

WWW.BEYONDHOLLYWOOD.COM

Movies such as *Dawn of the Dead* portray zombies as bloodthirsty hordes intent on mass killing.

by Julia Litzky '12
Science & Technology Editor

As Humans vs. Zombies takes over the Hamilton campus this week, classic notions of what zombies are become central to our everyday lives. The image most conjured, and on which the game is based, is of walking dead intent on consuming the living and transforming them into zombies as well. This notion is fed to us by the likes of Hollywood and horror stories.

The original idea of zombification, however, comes from the religion of Voodoo, or Voodun, which has also been captured by the likes of Hollywood and altered from its original state in the minds of the general public. Although the notion of Voodun may conjure up images of wax dolls and love potions, Voodun is actually a structured and complex religion that developed as African slaves in South America and Haiti were forced to convert to Christianity. They integrated the new religion with the ritual and spiritualism of Africa.

True zombification in Voodun is not the creation of the brain-thirsty, mass-murdering wandering dead we picture, but rather a way for the Voodun priests to establish their power.

*see **Voodun**, page 16*

The Transformation of the Music Industry: How the Internet is Changing How We Listen

by Matthew Nudell '11
Science & Technology Writer

In an effort to stem the tide of illegal music and file sharing on campus, Hamilton's Information Technology Services (ITS) created a list of legal alternatives for downloading music and movies. At the top of this list are Apple's music juggernaut iTunes and the lesser-known internet radio website Pandora.

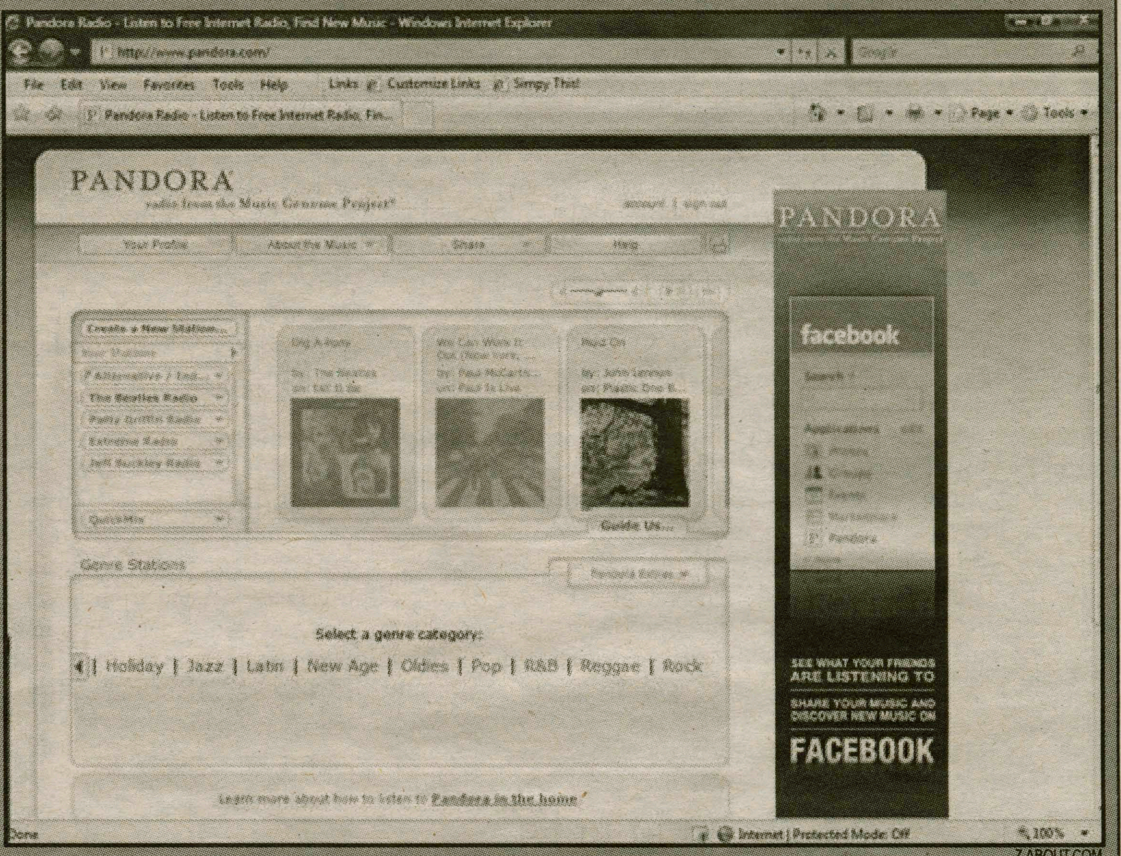
While illegal downloading may be popular, many are turning to such legal internet sources for their music. Recently, NPD, a market research company, announced that iTunes' digital music sales in the first two quarters of 2009 had accounted for 25 percent of total CD sales in the US. The other top leaders in CD sales, Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Target and Amazon, lagged behind iTunes with 20, 16, 10 and 10 percent shares respectively in the U.S. CD market. In addition, iTunes' music sales now represent a whooping 69 percent of the U.S. digital music market. Amazon MP3, iTunes' biggest competitor, only accounted for eight percent of U.S. digital music sales.

It doesn't appear that iTunes' steady growth will slow anytime soon. Apple just launched iTunes 9, a new version of iTunes, along with a new series of iPods. iTunes 9 features revamped Genius Bars called "Genius Mixes" and a "Home Sharing" program, which enables users in the same family to transfer songs, applications and movies between libraries. It also includes "iTunes LP," which features the music, performance videos, artwork, interviews, lyrics and photos of specific artists including Bob Dylan, The Grateful Dead and Norah Jones, and a re-designed iTunes store. In addition, iTunes 9 features improved syncing abilities for iPhones and iPods; iPhone and iPod touch users can now re-arrange their applications and home screens via their iTunes libraries.

Besides iTunes, internet radio web-sites like Pandora are also changing the way music is aquired. Pandora streams songs for free and provides immediate music recommendations to users. "Pandora is a great way to discover new music," said Zack Pintchik '12. "You start with a genre you like, and as you listen it changes the music it plays based on your responses to the previous songs."

The site just launched a new application on the Google Android phone. The application's release comes just two months after Pandora reached a crucial agreement with SoundExchange, resulting in the reduction of the royalty rate Pandora was required to pay for each song it streams for free.

However, royalties are beginning to affect the internet music industry: due to an increase in royalty rates, Pandora has been unable to re-enter the European market. Today, Pandora faces even more challenges for maintaining its sole market in the United States. Due to the negotiations with SoundExchange, Pandora has been forced to limit users' free streaming capabilities to 40 hours per month, after which users have to pay $0.99 monthly for unlimited access to song streaming.



Z.ABOUT.COM

Sites like Pandora take advantage of internet technology to stream music to listeners. Royalty charges, however, are threatening this method.

While the company is still afloat after almost declaring bankruptcy in 2008, Pandora, along with other prominent Internet radio websites face unprecedented challenges to earn revenue from advertising and user pay while maintaining a loyal user base. Even though the Pandora application on the iPhone has been a major success, Pandora's frequent advertisements between songs have irritated listeners. Although the ads on Pandora may not be as intrusive as those on regular radio stations, Pandora's advertisements have prompted the question of whether listeners would rather pay a flat monthly rate than have ads interrupt their music listening. This increase in cost will likely lead to an increase in illegal downloading, which would decrease the overall profits of the music industry.

Thus, as the medium of music listening and downloading shifts from CDs to online digital music stores and Internet radio sites, music entrepreneurs must compromise users' demand for free or low-cost access to music with the lofty expenses pertaining to royalty payments, web site upkeep and research and development.

Neuro Lunch Provides Taste of Current Research

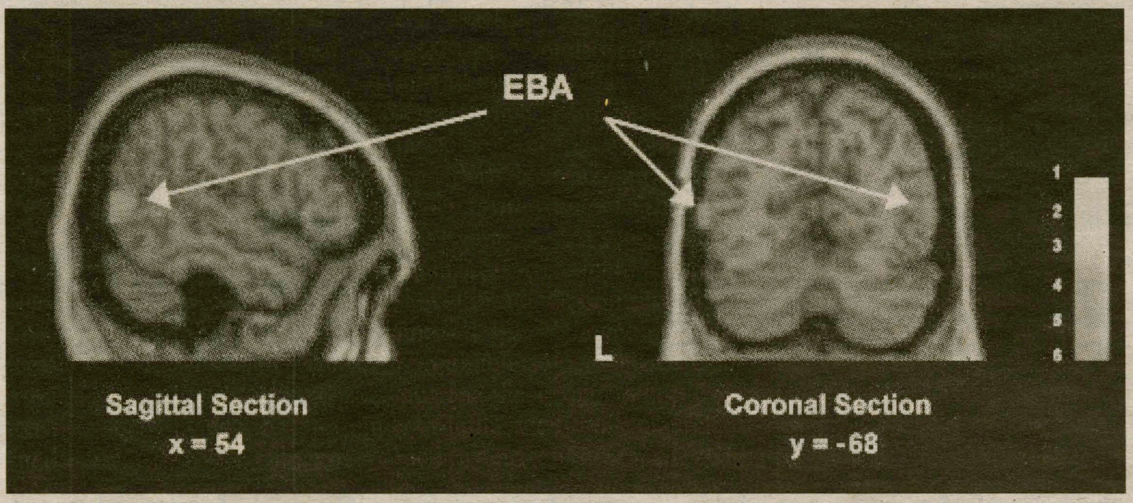
New lunch encourages discussion of important topics in quickly growing field

by Ben Trachtman '12
Science & Technology Editor

There's a brand new forum to discuss all things related to the brain. The creation of a neuroscience lunch group allows students and professors alike to discuss journal articles, neuroscience in the news, and recent advancements in the field over a casual meal.

Deborah Barany '11, the group's founder, wants to promote interest in the area while retaining an informal atmosphere. "Neuroscience Lunch is a student-run, discussion-based journal club intended for anyone majoring/planning on majoring in neuroscience, anyone considering medical school or graduate school in the sciences, or anyone with a general interest in learning about the brain," said Barany.

Neuroscience is the study of the brain on a cellular and molecular level. It uses a combination of biology, chemistry, and psychology to answer questions about how the brain functions and how changes in the brain, even down to an atomic level, can affect behavior. Everything in the broad range of human behavior has its roots in the brain and neuroscience, from sensation and memory to language and motion. The field has exploded in recent years primarily because of recent advances in imaging techniques that enable neuroscientists to see what actually happens in the brain. The rising popularity of the field is even reflected in the number of attendees at the first meeting of neuroscience lunch.



WWW.SCIENCEDIRECT.COM

One of the figures from this week's article on the neural basis of empathy, which is being discussed at the neuroscience lunch. The group meets weekly at Commons.

The group sported about 25 students as well as Stone Professor of Psychology Douglas Weldon. Every week, a different article relating to neuroscience is emailed to the group and discussed at the lunch. This week's article is entitled "How do we perceive the pain of others? A window into the neural processes involved in empathy."

Last week, attendees introduced themselves by saying their favorite part of the brain and their favorite neurologist, but extensive knowledge of the field of neuroscience is purely optional. The atmosphere is friendly and welcoming, and the only requirement is a little bit of interest in neuroscience—or biology, chemistry, psychology, or any other component of the multidisciplinary area of study. The group makes a point of not alienating non-neuroscience majors and being accessible to everyone interested. Barany stressed that the weekly journal articles are fairly brief and that they are not intended to consume a great deal of time.

Neuroscience has deep roots at Hamilton. It became a major in 1976 under the name of psychobiology and was one of the first undergraduate programs of its kind. It adopted its new title in 1998 and is still one of the most comprehensive undergraduate programs in the country. A recent survey ranked the research opportunities available in this department in the top 11 for colleges. Graduates of the program have gone on to become research coordinators, neurology residents and much more.

Neuroscience lunch meets weekly at 1 p.m. on Fridays on the western balcony of Commons. New members are welcomed and encouraged to attend. For more information and a link to this week's article, e-mail dbarany@hamilton.edu.

Screen Saver Electric Sheep Combines Fractal Art and Algorithms To Create Mesmerizing Designs

by William McIvor '12
Science & Technology Writer
& Julia Litzky '12
Science & Technology Editor

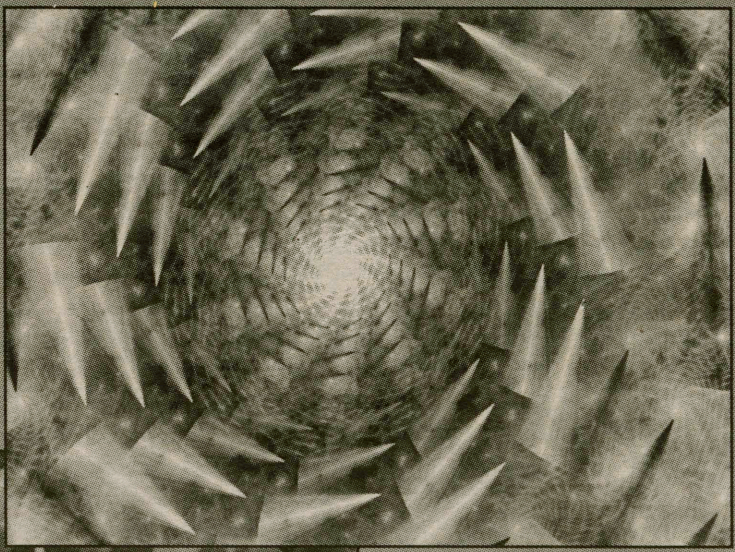
When we think of art, we usually picture paintings and sculptures fabricated from tangible materials. However, artists are increasingly taking advantage of new possibilities generated through computer technology. Scott Draves, who calls himself a software artist, has used a combination of his own software and the power of the Internet to generate a screensaver that is a work of living, ever-changing art. His "Electric Sheep" is, according to his website, "a form of artificial life, which is to say it is software that recreates the biological phenomena of evolution and reproduction through mathematics." The name "Electric Sheep" is a tribute to Philip Dick's famous science fiction novel "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?".

His software is used to generate algorithmically based images and the animations called Flames, a specific type of fractal art. Algorithms are a type of mathematical equation that are specific to computer programing. Fractals are a type of mathematical equation that, when graphed, produces a complicated geometric line which repeats no matter how far you zoom in. Fractal art adds color and dimension to the ever-repeating patterns, creating complex and mesmerizing designs.

The "Electric Sheep" screensaver uses the entire participation network of computers, currently about 60,000, to generate these visualizations. Each computer renders a specific still frame of a flame. All the still frames are then patched together to create a moving visualization called a sheep. A series of these sheep become the screensaver, and users can vote on which sheep they like best, and which ones they don't like. The algorithm then incorporates these votes by 'breeding' the sheep that are preferred by users through combining their fractal coding, and eliminating the sheep that are not preferred. This results in a series of genetic lines that form distinct family trees, which can be traced on the program's website.

All of Draves' software is open source, meaning anyone can download, use and alter it legally. Open source software allows users of "Electric Sheep" to create their own sheep to submit and to contribute alterations to the basic software. Software based on Draves' work has spread throughout the artistic and graphic design world and can be seen everywhere from movies and shows like Animatrix and CBS's Threshold to promotional materials for graphic hardware giant NVidia.

Draves has taken his screensaver and selected favorite families of sheep to create a line of art which includes prints, projected images and "Dreams in High Fidelity," an "evolving painting" based on "Electric Sheep." It is a high-resolution, infinitely playing and non-looping visualization that plays on a display. The screensaver can be downloaded at electricsheep.com.



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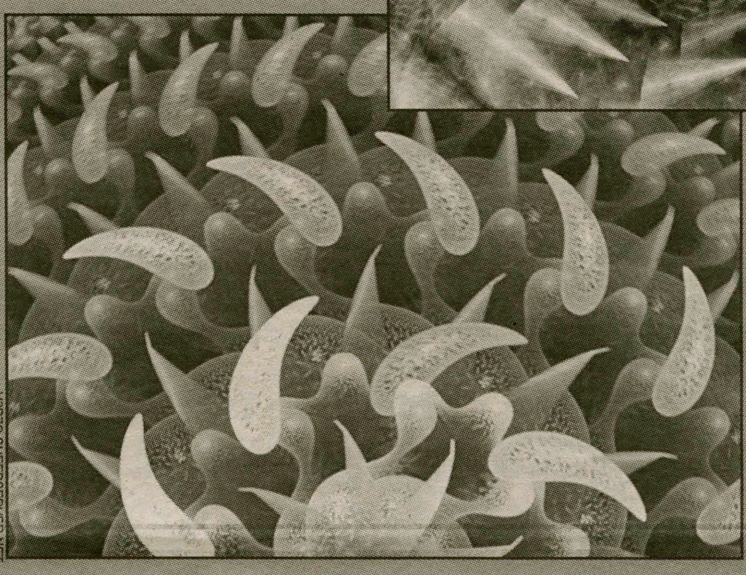

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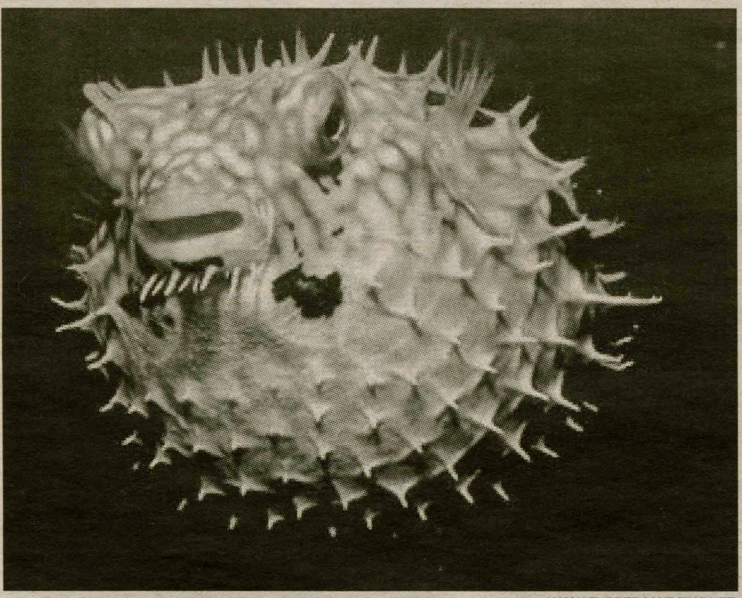
Different sheep algorithms, such as those pictured above and left, are 'bred' with other popular sheep based on user votes. The process is made possible through the use of algorithms and fractals which combine the popular 'genetic lines' with other popular lines and eliminate those sheep which are unpopular.

Voodun Stories of Zombification Might Have Scientific Explanation

from ***Could****, page 14*

It is so commonly accepted that the Haitian legal code has a law against zombification, treating it as murder. Zombification is a form of punishment through enslavement. The story generally goes like this: A Voodun priest prepares a potion, which is rubbed on an unsuspecting individual's skin, often as punishment for some wrong deed. Spiritually, it is believed that the priest is capturing a part of the person's soul in this process. That person later gets sick, appears to die and is buried. Days, weeks or years later the person will be found wandering the streets near their former home. Often, the victims claim to have been forced into labor on a priest's plantation. They often know details only the original person could know about his or her life, but have slowed speech and understanding. Stories of this sort appear repeatedly throughout Voodun literature, but is it possible that they are true?



WWW.FLIPPERSANDFINS.NET

The puffer fish contains a neurotoxin that has been implicated as a key ingredient in zombification potions.

The answer may lie in the puffer fish, which contains a neurotoxin, or a chemical that interferes with the sending of neurological signals. The neurotoxin, tetrodotoxin (TTX), is a deadly poison which blocks transmission through the sodium channels in nerve tissue, preventing the nervous system from functioning properly. The symptoms of such poisoning are well documented in Japan, where puffer fish is a delicacy, and a few hundred people suffer from TTX poisoning every year. Though it can cause death through paralysis, very low doses can cause people to appear to become paralyzed. Breathing and heart rate are reduced to undetectable levels, and people are occasionally mistaken for being dead. This explains the "walking dead" idea behind zombies.

This chemical could also explain the "zombified" state often reported and that we associate with zombification, which includes slowed speech and understanding and a lack of free will. Because breathing is so significantly slowed by the toxin, the lack of oxygen could cause damage to the brain. This damage would occur first in the areas of the brain that controls cognition and free will, because the body would rush whatever oxygen it takes in to the areas of the brain responsible for basic life support. It is also possible that the person's brain would lack some cognitive abilities initially, but slowly recover them, as often happens to stroke victims. This may explain the victims' sudden reappearance years later.

Although there has not been much research done on the phenomena of zombies, some studies have analyzed potions made to zombify that were bought from Voodun priests. TTX has been detected in many of these, supporting the theory that the toxin is responsible for the reported incidences of zombification. However, several of these studies have been called into question based on possible ethical and procedural errors. Additionally, mental illness has been suggested in several of the more recently studied cases of so-called zombification. The instances of TTX that are well studied are those where the poison is ingested, and it may have altogether different effects when absorbed through the skin. It is therefore, difficult to draw concrete conclusions, but the science behind the neurotoxin provides an interesting explanation for the phenomenon of zombies.

Wacky Facts: *Cars*

by William McIvor '12
Science & Technology Writer

The Thrust SSC set the land speed record of 763 mph, becoming the only car to break the speed of sound.

27 percent of car owners have had sex in a car.

The fastest speeding ticket ever given was to a Koenigsegg CCR caught traveling at 242 mph in Texas.

Airbags inflate at up to 4500 mph.

Four percent of car owners have given birth in a car.

The largest speeding ticket ever given was $71,400 in Finland, where fines are based on both the offence and income.

The fastest production car is the SSC Ultimate Aero, which can reach speeds up to 257 mph.

The first recorded land speed record, 66 mph, was set in 1899 by an electric car.

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ALL ABOUT STEVE	●12:40●2:50-4:55-7:00▲9:05	PG-13
SORORITY ROW	●1:45●3:50-5:55-8:00▲10:00	R
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WHITEOUT	●3:55-8:10	R

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Cross Country Begins Season

by Cooper Creagan '13
Sports Writer

For months, the Continentals have been training both individually and as a team in preparation for this year's cross country season. Hard training sessions, mile repeats and long runs on the road have been the norm for both teams in recent weeks. Last Saturday, the Continentals finally got the opportunity to showcase their abilities in a short course meet against D'Youville, Vassar, Union and Nazareth.

On the men's side, the shorter distance meant six kilometers, a distance three Hamilton runners completed in under 20 minutes. What is more impressive about that feat is that none of those runners' names were Peter Kosgei '10. Kosgei did not compete in the race, resting his body for more important races later in the season.

The top three runners for the men were James Grebey '12, Will Reid '10 and Scott Bickard '11. The talented sophomore Grebey, who towers over the competition, won the race handily, the closest runner coming in several meters behind him.

Teammate Bickard describes him as "our most talented runner not named Peter Kosgei" and adds that this race, though impressive, is "only the tip of the iceberg for Grebey's potential."

Coach Hull had a feeling the sophomore would prove his worth on the golf course. His excellent workout times throughout the week prior were a good indicator of his racing prowess.

Reid and Bickard turned in admirable times as well, averaging 5:20 and 5:22 a mile respectively for the nearly four-mile distance. This time last year, nobody but Kosgei was reaching these speeds.

That sort of improvement is just what the Continentals need, as the men hope to qualify for the national meet this season – something the Hamilton cross country program has not done in several years. This early in the season, however,

*see **Cross Country**, page 19*

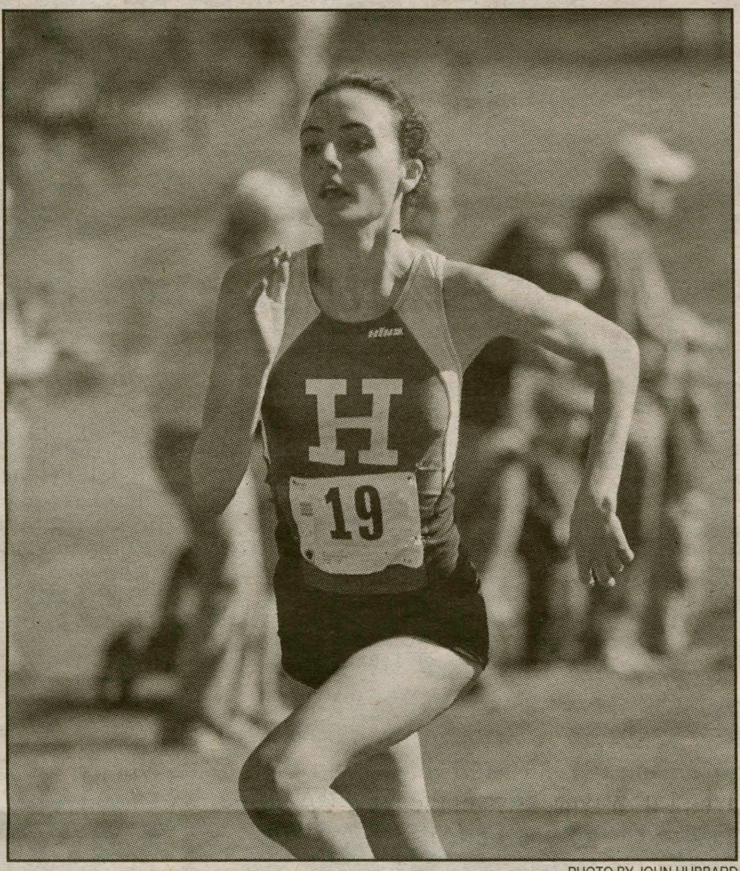

PHOTO BY JOHN HUBBARD

Meredith FitzPatrick '11 pushes herself at the meet.

Soccer Earns Win

*from **Men's Soccer**, page 20*

Anthony Carello '09, who has graduated.

The graduation of key players from last year will mean that there are shoes to be filled, but Coach Perry Nizzi has been boosted by the promise of the new freshman class. "There are three or four very good freshmen that should help us quickly," he revealed. "Additonally, Frank Campagnano '12 should be a very dangerous offensive player for us," he added. Campagnano was one of the surprises in last year's freshman class with five goals in nine starts.

Nizzi praised the team's work ethic and is pleased with how it is shaping up so far. "The team is working very hard, and we are happy with how hard they are working," he commented. "As always our success will ride on the seniors and we need our four captains to step up. The hardest thing is trying to get them into game condition with no preseason – all the teams we play [before the Liberty League starts] will be at least two weeks ahead of us," Coach Nizzi explained.

Managing 17 shots against Ithaca with no preseason is a testament to the team's ability and promise.

Nizzi received some good news of his own a few weeks ago. After winning 106 games with Hamilton College and leading the Continentals to four NCAA appearances since his arrival in 1998, he was inducted into the SUNY Cortland C-Club Hall of Fame. Nizzi also belongs to NJCAA Soccer Hall of Fame, the Greater Utica Sports Hall of Fame and the Rome Sports Hall of Fame.

The team demonstrated their ability to dominate a soccer match in their 3-0 dismantling of SUNY Oswego. The Continentals were simply continuing their dominance of the SUNY Oswego Lakers, winning their tenth straight match with a draw inbetween.

Even though the Lakers attempted one more shot (an 18 to 17 advantage), Continental goalie Boole, in only his second start, shut down the opposing offensive attack recording six saves en route his second clean sheet. Jon Sanford '11 scored the first goal of the game, and along with it hit a career mark: his first collegiate goal. Scoring with him were Jesse Arroyave '11 and Hennie Bosman '13. Thus the team seems to have found a rhythm together.

The team now looks to act upon the promise they have shown in their opening games when the Continentals host Nazareth on September 19, before heading to SUNY Cortland on September 22.

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Hamilton's Golf Course: A Rare College Luxury

by Daniel Greenberg '12
Sports Editor

As some of the Hamilton community knows, Hamilton College has something very special that the majority of schools, even big ones, do not: a lovely, 2,971 yard, par 35, nine-hole golf course. What is even more unique about Hamilton's golf course is that it is made available to both students and staff at absolutely no cost, except for effort of having to carry one's clubs behind the Margaret Bundy Scott Fieldhouse where the course is located.

In fact, the course is even open to both Hamilton Alumni and their families. It has provided the opportunity for countless students to enjoy and learn (through the golf physical education courses) a sport that has the potential to be enjoyed during one's entire life recreationally and

PHOTO BY ANDY RICHARDSON '10

Come try out your luck on the challenging ninth hole.

it could come in quite handily in a business fashion.

Despite the criticism of the course not being proper for intercollegiate play because of its relatively small size, it is still designed in a challenging manner, providing a test for any player with its layout and multiplicity of hazards. Thus the course compensates for its length effectively, creating one of the best and most enjoyable nine-hole courses around. This statement is especially true when the course is properly maintained, but obviously there are significant costs to maintaining any course. Currently, the college tries to subsidize the cost by making it available to the general public at a cost.

The course used to be played on by a group of locals via an organization called the Kirkland Club. Even though the course is available to the general public to the tune of $320 a year or $15 a day per person, it would seem to be a wise move for Hamilton to reestablish another affordable golfing club for the local community. This would help promote the course, create stronger ties with the locals and obviously take some of the economic burden off of the students.

The course also demonstrates the perspective that Hamilton promotes – the idea that sports and education can work in conjunction with one another. Golf provides a player a chance to experience its the strict code of ethics, respect for other players and groups and responsibility to keeping track of one's own penalties and score.

There is a certain trust that can be learned from golf, and hopefully over time players learn the importance of respecting the course itself by trying to leave it in the same condition after one plays so that others may enjoy it just as much. These are all lessons that can be taken from the golf course and hopefully if you begin to take advantage of the course yourself, you will learn these life lessons as well.

Sports off the Hill

UFC superstar **Rampage Jackson** ditches fight with famous coaching rival 'Sugar' Rashad Evans to take on a role in the new **A-Team** movie as B.A. Baracus, the character formally played by Mr. T. Rampage Jackson, a former light heavy weigt champion, was notorious for his out of the ring shananagins. The film will also feature Liam Neeson along with the implausable, ridiculous, comedic, **over-the-top** action sequences we all love.

Becoming a professional requires significant hard work and effort. In the case of Nigerian soccer player **Dike** it apparently also requires one to become a **drug mule**. During interrogation he admitted that he was smuggling **500 grams of heroin** into New Dehli because he was promised a roster spot on a club in Guwahati if he did. Who knew that becoming a successful, well-paid athlete required just a little bit of extra work on the side.

Rookie Quarterback **Mark "Dirty" Sanchez** tore it up in his first start for the New York Jets, passing for 272 yards. Coming out the gates so well one would figure that he blasts some nasty pump-up music before games (ex: Disturbed, Slayer, Lil' Wayne, "Eye of the Tiger," that overplayed Fort Minor song). Instead Sanchez gets the testorone pumping to some sick rock ballads, which include notorious upbeat bands such as Billy Joel and Elton John, along with classic, mosh-pit inspiring songs such as "Fire and Rain" by James Taylor.

Hamilton Scores

Women's Field Hockey vs. Utica College (9/12)
Hamilton 4 — Utica College 0 — Win

Women's Field Hockey vs. SUNY Cortland (9/15)
SUNY Cortland 4 — Hamilton 1 — Loss

Men's Golf @ St. Lawrence Invitational (9/12)
9th Place

Men's Golf @ St. Lawrence Invitational (9/13)
6th Place

Women's Volleyball @ Morrisville State (9/12)
Hamilton 3 — Morrisville State 2 — Win

Cross Country Focused on Steady Improvement

*from **Cross Country**, page 18*

the team has more fine-tuning to do.

"Although Grebey had a great finishing kick, the rest of the team didn't have a great end to their race which probably cost us first place," Bickard commented of the Continentals' performances in the final meters of the race.

Coach Hull considers it a learning experience. "Usually, the team does better the second time out," he said, claiming that the first race of the season is where you "learn a lot about yourself and where you're at."

For now, the men will settle for second place, their average time for the race falling less than a second short of Vassar's winning average, and that is without the lightning fast Kosgei.

The women also enjoyed the fruits of their labor at Saturday's meet. Abby King '11 led the team to a first place finish, coming through the finish line first with a time of 15:16 for four kilometers.

She was followed by teammates Meredith FitzPatrick '12 and Tory Grieves '12, who finished fourth and fifth, respectively. FitzPatrick and Grieves' performances are especially impressive given that both girls have been dealing with injuries since the beginning of training camp.

The top seven was rounded out by Emily Potter '12, Maddy Gunter '11, Rachel Cackett '13 and Kate Hails '10. Cackett was the team's fastest freshman and the third fastest freshman in the entire race. Other noteworthy performances include Emily Heckman '13, who came in immediately after team captain Hails as the fourth fastest freshman of the race. Nina Kraus '13, and Sarah Schultz '12 also performed well in their first ever collegiate cross country race.

The focus for the Continentals was more process than product for this first race. The goal was to use this first invitational to ease in to the season, developing good racing procedures early on. The women paid careful attention to the layout of the course, pacing themselves accordingly throughout. The resulting victory was a product of this focus, and just one step on the women's path to a successful season. With meets like this, it will be a season to remember.

> *"The team does better the second time out, [you] learn a lot about yourself and where you're at [after the first race]."*
>
> **-Coach Brett Hull in regards to his team's performance**

PHOTO BY JOHN HUBBARD

The men's cross country team is off to the races in the Hamilton Short Course Meet.

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SPECTATOR SPORTS

September 17, 2009

Rugby Proves Worth As Division I Team

by Jonathan Fung '12
Sports Writer

The women's rugby team has a tradition of proud victory. This year is no exception. The women's rugby club shut out Ithaca College this past weekend, sending a message to other Division I rugby teams: we belong in Division I and we are here to stay. Sticking to its usual game plan, the team delivered quick punches to the forwards, got it out to the back line and ran circles around Ithaca.

The team's game plan might sound simple enough, but this lethal combination led to a commanding lead, and subsequently a shutout victory of 45-0.

Last year they enjoyed a very successful crusade by going undefeated in Division II conference play. Not only do they have bragging rights over last season's slaughter-fest, but the femme fatales of rugby also are able to boast an accumulation of multiple shut-out victories over the years. This year, the women's rugby team has moved up to the more challenging Division I. With their ascension to a new level of play, the team hopes to continue developing, maintaining their style of play and upholding their winning tradition.

Despite losing Stephanie Ryder, Megan Herman, Leeann Brigham and Amanda Schoen, all talented players and graduates from the class of 2009, a new wave of rookies, who were multifaceted high school athletes, are bringing physical prowess. Their past experiences has helped cultivate an understanding of the field, player positions and the movement of the ball— characteristics natural to team sports. In a sense, rugby can be considered a hybrid of soccer and football, yet there are unique characteristics that make rugby what it is today.

The class of 2009 "all [have] ... big shoes to fill. These girls [who left] helped keep the club going, held vital e-board positions, and played 110% every practice and game," says Captain Jocelyn Bos-Fisher '10.

As the season progresses, all of the rookies are poised to become vital players who will utilize their natural athleticism to learn the game, add depth and become one with the rest of the team in their hopes for a berth in the Division I state tournament.

Even with the team's clean sweep against Ithaca College, the team did not consider its win a walk in the park; they had to earn every inch on the field. Since August 23, the team has been back to the Hill for preseason workouts and training. Grueling doubles before the semester, in addition to practicing religiously, has helped the team start of in a very impressive manner. A typical week would consist of practicing four days a week with endurance runs on Mondays and Wednesdays before practice. On Mondays, the team lifts together and Saturdays are reserved for games.

Bos-Fisher adds, "Everyone pulls their weight out on that field and that is why we are so successful. We work as one, support each other, and love the game."

With one win under their belt, the team has four games left this fall. The next two Saturdays will be two away games, the first of which will be against Syracuse University and the second will be against SUNY Brockport. After Brockport, the team will return to Hamilton for two home games and face Cornell on October 3 and participate in their final league game against SUNY Buffalo on October 10.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LESLEY RYDER '11

Fullback Danielle "Motors" Mortorano '12 energetically runs up the field to score.

Sports on the Hill...

Staunton Peck '06 received the Mannie Jackson Basketball Human Spirit Award at the Basketball Hall of Fame's Class of 2009 enshrinement ceremony. The scholarship awards $5,000 to a student pursuing a master's degree in sports management. Peck helped the Continentals to reach the NCAA tournaments twice during his career (2003, 2006) and finished with 550 career points and 366 rebounds.

James Grebey '12 is the NESCAC men's cross country performer of the week after winning his first 6,000-meter course as a Continental.

Eric Boole '13 was named a men's soccer co-defensive performer of the week while **Anne Gravely '11** was named the women's soccer co-offensive performer.

Marisa Spagnolo '12 is the field hockey co-defensive performer of the week.

Soccer Picks Up Speed After Loss in Opener

by Ronald Wai '10
Sports Writer

Three games into the season the men's soccer team picked up their first victory Tuesday, defeating SUNY Oswego 3-0. Despite starting the new campaign without a win in its first two games, the team was able to pull out a draw on the road at Ithaca College after their loss to Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in the season opener.

The game against RIT started slowly, with both teams retiring to the sideline after a scoreless first half. Rochester came back from the break stronger, scoring immediately after the restart and doubling its advantage 66 minutes into the match. Hamilton's Marcus Dormanen '10 responded instantly, scoring a low shot after Paul Moakler '10 drifted into the corner to score his second career goal. The Continentals increased their efforts and pushed for the tie but RIT held on for a narrow 2-1 victory.

A thrilling game against Ithaca College followed, with both teams combining to take 41 shots in the 110-minute overtime game. Hamilton managed 17 shots in total, with 11 of them coming in a bright first half. Ithaca managed 24 shots in the game, winning six corners along the way. Despite the exhibition of attacking soccer on display, the game ended goalless.

Goalkeepers Mark Garcia '10 and Eric Boole '13 made their Hamilton career debuts against RIT and Ithaca respectively, and will be competing with their fellow keepers to

see *Men's Soccer*, page 18

Did you know...
...that men's soccer coach Perry Nizzi has been inducted in four Hall of Fames?

PHOTO BY JOHN HUBBARD

Forward Jesse Arroyave '10, last season's top scorer for Hamilton, races towards the goal.

Key Games To Watch This Week:

M Soccer vs. Nazareth College, Sep. 19 1.00 p.m., Love Field

W Volleyball vs. Williams College, Sep. 22 7.00 p.m., Alumni Gym